













AN  
ADDRESS,

DELIVERED

AT THE OPENING OF THE

NEW TOWN-HALL,

Ware, Mass. March 31, 1847.

CONTAINING

SKETCHES OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THAT TOWN, AND  
ITS FIRST SETTLERS.

~~~~~  
BY WILLIAM HYDE.  
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PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN.

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It was not expected, that the request for an address, would have led to the result here shewn; and had the labor required been anticipated, it would have been declined. The pressure of other cares would have excused from the attempt. But having commenced and become interested in the pursuit, there seemed to be no alternative but to find the truth, and to prove it by record evidence. Tradition was found a very unsafe guide, and the principal interest in the following pages will be the copies from original papers found among the archives of the commonwealth in the Secretary's Office, and from the records of the original proprietors of Hardwick and of Palmer, and from the Registry of Deeds at Springfield. These are inserted in their proper connexion, rather than in an appendix. Hon. Joseph Cummings has furnished much valuable information with regard to the boundaries of the ancient grants, and the earliest settlers. The true history of the Equivalent Lands, after much research, was found in Trumbull's History of Connecticut. For some facts in the Ecclesiastical History, credit is due to a sermon preached by Rev. A. B. Reed, Thanksgiving, 1830.

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## A D D R E S S .

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It is a matter for mutual congratulation, that we are permitted to assemble this day in this commodious Hall. That the town has undertaken and completed so convenient a building for the transaction of public business, with a room for the accommodation of a Grammar School, and offices for the Selectmen and Assessors, evinces, under our peculiar circumstances, a spirit of liberality in the inhabitants, in which we may well rejoice.

In consequence of the rise of a flourishing village upon the eastern border of the town, the centre of business and of population had become so much changed, it seemed but an act of simple justice that the Town Hall should be located so as to accommodate the great majority of the voters. It is an unpleasant matter to disturb existing relations. An ancient centre is a spot about which we are drawn by the attachments of youth, and the force of habit. But the times change, and the busy habits of our New England population force us to change with them, and though the erection of this building on this place may prove inconvenient to a few of the inhabitants, it cannot fail to promote the convenience and comfort of the majority.

It has been thought that the opening of this Hall was a fit occasion for some historical account of the town. In complying with the request of the building committee to prepare something of the kind, I did not anticipate the labor it would cost me. My place would more properly have been filled by some native of the town, and there are those more capable than I can be expected to be, to give an interesting relation of the early settlements. And what I have done, has been in the fragments of time, stolen from severer duties.

In my inquiries, I have endeavored to trace the early grants of the territory to their true origin. I had written the introductory chapter of the history, relying on the commonly received traditions, which were supposed to be correct by the older inhabitants, were put forth as true in a historical sermon, by the Rev. Mr. Read, preached Thanks-

giving day, 1830, and were afterwards incorporated into Barber's Historical Collections of Massachusetts. In searching for the confirmation of that story, I became convinced it was entirely wrong, and am at a loss to account for the tradition. The story in Barber's History is, that the principal part of Ware was a tract of 10,000 acres, granted to the soldiers in the Narragansett war,—that they viewed the lands of little value, and afterwards sold them to John Reed, Esq. of Boston, for two coppers per acre.\*

The true history of the 10,000 acre tract is this. The first settlements in the western part of Massachusetts, were made at Springfield, in 1636, which in process of time, embraced Suffield, Enfield, and Somers within its bounds. Those towns, as well as Woodstock, were settled from Massachusetts, and were under her jurisdiction. The charter of Connecticut, granted by Robert, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of King Charles, in 1631, conveyed "all that part of New England in America, which lies and extends itself from a river there called the Narragansett River, the space of forty leagues upon a straight line near the sea shore towards the southwest, west and by south or west, as the coast lieth towards Virginia, all the breadth aforesaid, throughout the main lands there, from the Western Ocean, to the South Sea." When the line was run by Connecticut, it took in the towns above named. Massachusetts declined giving them up. A long controversy ensued, which lasted sixty-six years. In 1713, an agreement was made between the colonies, that the line should be run according to the charter. Massachusetts should retain jurisdiction over the towns settled by her, and should grant as an equivalent as many acres of unimproved land to Connecticut.

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\* I find a deed on record at Springfield, Sept. 10, 1740, from John Read to Thomas Read, of "one full half right or share in a township lately granted by the Great and General Court of the Province to the officers and soldiers which was formerly in ye Fight with the Indian Enemy at the falls on Connecticut River, commonly called the Falls Fight, which township lyeth near or adjoining to Deerfield in ye county of Hampshire, of which Fight my honored Father, Thomas Read, deceased was then and there one of the soldiers." The township here referred to is Bernardston, and the fight, the battle at Turner's Falls, during Phillip's War, in 1676. It may have been confounded with the tract in Ware, owned by Mr. Read, who was a lawyer of some eminence in Boston, and owned other large tracts of land. There is a deed on record at Springfield, of 23,040 acres on the southerly side of Deerfield, made by agents of the town of Boston to him. Templeton and Westminster were Narragansett towns.

On running the line, it was found at Connecticut River to run ninety rods north of the north-east bounds of Suffield, and that Massachusetts had encroached upon Connecticut, 107,793 acres. She made a grant of that quantity of land to Connecticut, which was accepted as an equivalent. This tract included Belchertown, Pelham, part of Enfield, and the 10,000 acres in Ware. The whole was sold soon after in 1716, in sixteen shares, for the sum of £683, New England currency, which was a little more than a farthing per acre. The money went into the funds of Yale College.\*

The towns of Suffield, Enfield, Somers and Woodstock, continued in Massachusetts till 1747, when they were taken into Connecticut.

Among the purchasers of the Equivalent lands, were Gov. Belcher and John Read, Esq., of Boston. Nathan Gould, Esq., the deputy-governor of Connecticut, and Peter Burr, Esq., one of the assistant judges.

In proof that I am right, I find a deed of mortgage on the records at Springfield, from John Read Dec. 12, 1722, "Of all that my Ten Thousand acres of land, being near Brookfield, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, being that two sixteenth parts of the lands commonly called the Equivalent Lands, which in the late division of the Equivalent Lands, fell to the Hon. Nathan Gould and Peter Burr, Esq. and to the said John Read." It was known afterwards, as "the Manor of Peace," as being a peace offering to Connecticut.

The south-east corner of the Read tract was near where the barn of Samuel Gould now stands, thence the line run due north to Hardwick line, passing west of Muddy Brook, and near Isaac Osborn's, thence west to Swift River, and south by the river to Palmer or the "Elbows," as it was then called, from the angles made by the branches of the Chicopee River. The South line was a continuation of the South line of Belchertown, bearing E. by N. This tract covered all the western portion of the town. The tract west of Swift River was called Cold Spring, and went into the hands of Gov. Belcher, and when incorporated, called Belchertown.

The eastern part of the town was included in a pur-

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\* Trumbull's History of Connecticut, vol. 1, page 446. The currency of Connecticut was in bills of credit, which, by a law of the colony, passed for twenty shillings in value, equal to silver at eight shillings per ounce, Troy weight sterling, in all payments at the treasury. Trumbull, vol. 2, p. 49.

chase made of the Indian proprietors Dec. 27, 1686. "John Magus, Lawrence Nassowanno, attorneys to Anogomok, Sachem of the tract of land called Wombemesisecook, James and Simon, sons and heirs of Black James, Sachem of the Nipmug country, for divers good causes and considerations, especially for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds current money of New England," conveyed to "Joshua Lamb, Nathaniel Paige, Andrew Gardner, Benjamin Gamblin, Benjamin Tucker, John Curtis, Richard Draper, and Samuel Ruggles of Roxbury, Mass. a certain tract or parcel of land, containing by estimation twelve miles long, north and south, and eight miles wide, east and west, situate, lying and being near Quabaug, commonly known by the name of Wombemesisecook, being butted and bounded southerly upon the land that Joseph Dudley Esq. lately purchased of the Indians, Easterly the southernmost corner upon a pond called Sasagookapaug, and so by a brook that runneth into said pond, and so up Northerly unto a place called Ueques, and so still Northerly until it meets with a River called Nenameseck, and Westerly by the River until it comes against Quaboge bounds, and joins unto their bounds, or however otherwise butted and bounded."

It would be difficult now to trace these lines, except the one formed by Ware River, which it appears was called by the Indians "Nenameseck." It appears from the proprietors' records, where the deed is recorded, that they claimed the land from Rutland, now Barre, on the north, to the Quabaug River, in Warren, covering Hardwick, parts of Ware, Palmer, and Brookfield, and that part of Warren north of the River. South of the Quabaug belonged to Brimfield. The same proprietors bought about the same time of the Indians, the tract now forming the towns of Leicester and Spencer.

The first attempts made to survey and lay out the lands was in 1727, at which time only two of the original proprietors were living, when they petitioned the Legislature to confirm the territory to them, which was refused. In 1728, a committee, one of whom was the Rev. Timothy Ruggles of Rochester, son of one of the purchasers, and father of the afterwards famous Brigadier Ruggles, was chosen to lay out a town six miles square within their claim, but it was not until 1732, that the Legislature confirmed to Joshua Lamb and others, the tract of six miles square, then called Lambs-town, and which was afterwards incorporated as the town of Hardwick.



As early as 1727, settlements were made in what is now Palmer, under grants or permits from the proprietors of Lambstown, by a colony of emigrants from the north of Ireland, among whom were Isaac Magoon and James Brakenridge. The government did not admit their right, and in 1732, they petitioned as follows:—

“To His Excellency, Jonathan Belcher Esq., Captain General and Governor in chief in and over his Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, The Honorable His Majesties Council, and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, May 31, 1732.

The petition of the subscribers dwelling and residing on a tract and parcel of land lying and situate between Springfield and Brookfield, Brinfield and the land called the Equivalent land and Cold Spring, Humbly Sheweth—

That they are sensible the said land belongs to the said Province, yet the reason why your petitioners entered on the said land was as follows. Some from the encouragement of Joshua Lamb, Esq. and Company, that the said land belonged to them, and that they would give to such of your petitioners as entered thereon under them a good right and title to such a part thereof as they respectively contracted for. Yet notwithstanding your petitioners are now sensible that the said Lamb & Co. have no right to the said land, and that the same will prove greatly to your petitioners damage—that as to such as hold under them without relieved by your Excellency and Honors—and that others of your petitioners entered on from necessity, not having wherewith of their own to provide. Yet nevertheless your petitioners are duly sensible that they deserve your discountenance. But confiding in the reasons offered, they humbly request your compassionate consideration—that they may be put under such regulation as may have a tendency to promote the flourishing of religion, &c.

Therefore your petitioners most humbly pray, that your Excellency and Honors would take the premises into your wise consideration, and either grant them the said tract of land or put them under such restrictions and regulations as in your consummate wisdom shall be thought most reasonable, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

JAMES DORCHESTER.	JOHN BEMON.	HUMPHREY GARDNER.
JOSEPH WRIGHT.	DUNCAN QUINTIN.	NICHOLAS BLANCHER.
BERNARD McNITT.	ISAAC MAGCON.	WILLIAM CRAWFORD.
DANIEL FULLER.	ISAAC MAGOON, JR.	SAMUEL NEVINS.
ANDREW MACKIE.	MICAH TOUSLEY.	JOSEPH GERISH.
JAMES SHEARER.	ELIJAH VOSE.	SAMUEL SHAW.
JAMES STEPHENS.	ELISHA HALL.	ANDREW RUTHERFORD.
DANIEL KILLAM.	ALEXANDER TACKEL.	DANIEL PARSONS.
DAVID SPEAR.	ROBERT FARRELL.	JAMES M'CLENATHAN.
THOMAS LITTLE.	JOSEPH FLEMING.	JAMES LAMBERTON.
SAMUEL DOOLITTLE.	AARON NELSON.	THOMAS M'CLENATHAN
JAMES BRAKENRIDGE.	JOHN HENDERSON.	ROBERT THOMPSON.
ROBERT HARPER.	DAVID NEVINS.	JOSEPH WRIGHT, JR.
WILLIAM SHAW.	JOSEPH BROOKS.	SAMUEL BROOKS.
JOHN HARVEY.	ROBERT NEVINS.	12 other names not to be read.

In the House of Representatives, Nov. 24, 1732. In answer to this petition, voted, that Col. Alden and Jas. Bradford, with such others as the Honorable Board shall appoint, be a committee to repair to the land petitioned for, carefully to view the situation and circumstances thereof as well those of the petitioners, and also the quantity and quality of the said land and to report their opinion at the next May session, what may be proper for the court to do thereon, and that the petition be referred accordingly. Sent up for concurrence. J. Quincy, Speaker.

In Council, Nov. 27, 1732. Read and concurred. Ebenezer Buzzell Esq. joined in the affair. J. Willard, Sec'y.

Consented to. J. BELCHER.

The Committee appointed by the General Court at their session in Nov. last to repair to the land petitioned for by James Dorchester and sundry others—Having in pursuance of the vote of said Court repaired to said lands, and carefully viewed the inhabitants thereof as well as these of the petitioners, and also the quantity and quality of said lands, do report our opinion thereon, as follows, viz.

We find the land petitioned for to be a tract of land commonly called the Elbow tract, lying near Springfield and the Equivalent Lands, containing 17,014 acres, (viz. contents of five miles square, and 1014 acres, over) exclusive of particular grants taken up and laid out within the same, bounded and included within the lines and boundaries of the adjacent land as hereafter laid down, viz. Easterly in part upon the west line of Brookfield township, from the N. West corner the said line runs So. 2 deg. West to the river, called Quabog alias Chicopee river, thence bounding on Brimfield township, as the said river runs, easterly in part and southerly, and in part westerly so far down said river, as to where the south end line of a tract of Equivalent land called Cold Spring township crosses or skirts the said River, thence bounding Northerly on the said line as it keeps East by the Needle of the surveying instrument, to the South East corner of said tract or township, which is the mouth of Swift River, thence bounding Westerly in part on the said tract or township of Equivalent land as the river runs to where the south line of another tract of Equivalent land, containing 10,000 acres belonging to John Read Esq. strikes up or runs from said river—thence bounding Northerly upon said line as it runs E. and by N. to the So. E. corner of said tract, being a heap of stones by the root of a great red oak tree, fallen close by one on the west side of a run of water, about 18 rods southerly of the river, called the Ware River—thence bounding Westerly on the east line of said tract, as it runs North by the Needle, until an east line there will strike the N. E. corner tree of Brookfield, as by a plan presented herewith appears.

We find the greatest part of said land to be a Pine land. High hills and low vallies, the hills very poor and mean, the vallies pretty good. We also find that the said tract of land lies in a broken form, and is much discommoded by farms claimed by particular grants from this court, which have taken up the best of the land. We also find that the circumstances of the petitioners and settlers, are difficult and much intricate and perplexed, some of them having entered and settled without regulation, and interfered and encroached upon other men's titles and improvements, and in many instances, two several settlers on the same spot, under different pleas and pretences of right—some having

lately laid out, some partly laid out, and others only pitched, interfering one with another as aforesaid. We would further inform this honorable court that we have taken great pains and care to inspect and inquire into every particular instance relating to the said tract of land, and find it needful to prevent further charge and difficulty—to report particularly, viz.—That we find there are entered and settled and about settling on the said tract of land the number of eighty persons the most whereof are families and built houses, and made considerable improvements, and are now and have been constantly for more than three years supplied with a minister to preach the word of God unto them, who has been supported by a free contribution. We also find that about 48 of the above number were introduced and led on or encouraged to settle and make improvements by Joshua Lamb, Esq. & Co. and their committee, who claimed the said tract of land by virtue of an Indian purchase, and the rest of the number had actual contracts with them for certain parcels thereof and received deeds of conveyance and orders from them for laying out of their lots, and have had the most of them laid out accordingly. We are therefore humbly of the opinion that the several persons and families hereafter named, that were so admitted and settled under and by the said claimers, have their several and respective lots hereafter confirmed to them, their heirs and assigns in such proportions and under such restrictions and limitations and considerations as follows and are hereafter mentioned, viz.”

Then follow specific grants to eighty-five different persons, among whom were Isaac Magoon, and Isaac Magoon Jr., the former was bounded north by the Read farm, near the south east corner.

Other portions of the territory were to be apportioned among part of the grantees according to certain rules. The first grants being generally 100 acres each.

“And that all and each of the afore named Person or Grantee Both first and last mentioned, (excepting the Rev'd Mr. John Harvey\*) do pay into the Public Treasury of this Province the sum of Five Hundred Pounds within two years as also forthwith to Pay the further sum of Sixty Seven Pounds, Eleven Shillings and Nine pence the charge and Expense of this Committe on the affair, Each man or Grantee his Equal part or Proportion of said sums according to the Quantity of his Grant of first allotment, and if any of the aforementioned persons or Grantees Either first or last mentioned Do not fulfill the aforesaid conditions within the Term of time herein Limited, Their lots be forfeited and other way Disposed of as this Court shall order. And that all Public Charges arising for the future (Untill they be settled and Invested with the powers and privileges of a Township), shall be raised upon their several lots according to the Quantity of acres and that all such of the aforesaid persons or Grantees as are Intitled to Draw after Rights and

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\* Rev. John Harvey was settled as the first minister of Palmer, in 1734. He was ordained by the Londonderry Presbytery. He was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Burns, in 1753. The Church was Scotch Presbyterian till the settlement of Rev. Simeon Colton, in 1811.



Divisions shall pay a Double Proportion to all such Charges according to the Quantity of the Grants or first lots. And that they the aforementioned Settlers and Grantees Do Erect and Build a Suitable House for Public Worship, and settle a minister within two Years and that they be allowed to Bring in a Bill for Erecting and setting themselves off a Township accordingly."

This report was signed by Ebenezer Buzzell, and adopted.

From these documents, it appears that the southern part of the town, and all east of the Read manor, as far north as Brookfield line extends, was included in what was then called the "Elbows."

Allusion is made in the report of the committee to former grants. The most ancient document I have found pertaining to the history of Ware is the following petition, dated in 1673, thirteen years before the Indian deed to the proprietors of Hardwick, which is copied from the original, in the archives of the commonwealth, and with the grant and the deed following it, the title of the territory of this village, can be easily traced to the present proprietors.

"To the Honoured Governour, Deputie Governour, Magistrates and Deputies now assembled and holding Generall Court in Boston.

The humble petition of Richard Hollinworth of Salem, most humbly sheweth.

That your most humble petitioner's ffather came into this country about forty yeares since, and brought a great ffamily with him, and a good estate. And being the first builder of vessells, being a ship-car-penter, was a great benefit to this countrey, and as great or greater than any one in the infancie of the countrie of a private man as it is fully knowne, yett gained not himselfe an estate, but spent his own that he brought, and notwithstanding all his service and the largeness of his family, being twelve in number, he never had more granted him by the countrie but fortie one acres of upland, and not one acre of meadow, and the land lying soe remote from the towne of Salem, it proved little worth to him or his, and none of his children have ever had anything but have lived by their labour with God's blessing, and your petitioner hath used maretan employment, and through many dangers and with much difficultie gotten a livelyhood for himselfe and his family, and being brought very low by his loss by the Dutch taking all from him, is constrained to apply himself unto yourselves, whom God hath sett as ffathers of this Commonwealth.

And doth most humbly beseech you seriously to consider the premises, and if it may stand with your good likeing and charitie to grant unto him a competent parcell of land that he may sitt downe upon with his family, viz. his wife and six children, for he would leave the seas had he any competencie of land whereby with his own industry and God's blessing he might mainetaine his family. And he shall take it as a great favour. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c."

"In answer to this petition, the Deputys judge meet to graunt the pe-

tioner five hundred acres of land where he can find it free from any former graunt, ye Honorable Magistrates consenting hereto.

8: 11: 1673.

WILLIAM TORREY, Chairman.

Consented to by the Magistrates.

EDWARD RAWSON, Sec'ry.

Hollingsworth never located the land granted by the General Court to him. His heirs afterwards sold the grant to Samuel Prince of Rochester. June 14, 1715, it appears by the records of the council, "a plot of 500 acres was presented by Samuel Prince, lying on Ware River, surveyed by William Ward, being a grant of that quantity to Richard Hollingsworth in 1673." "It was ordered that the plat be confirmed as Hollingsworth's grant, if that grant has not been laid out before."

The plat and the order indorsed on the back of it cannot be found. Very few papers of that kind between 1710 and 1730, are among the archives of the commonwealth, and it is supposed they were destroyed when the State House was burned in 1741.

Tradition has always connected with this grant an obligation to maintain mills at the falls, but the records disclose no such condition. The following deed copied from the Springfield Records will throw light on the earliest conveyances.

"To all People unto whom this Present Deed of sale shall come, Jonas Clarke of Boston, within the County of Suffolk in New England, Mazier, Sendeth Greeting.

Know Ye, that I the said Jonas Clarke, for and in consideration of the sum of Four hundred pounds to me in hand at and before the en-sealing and delivery hereof well and truly Paid by Jabez Olmsted of Brookfield in the County of Hampshire\* in New England aforesaid, Husbandman, the Rec't whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have given, granted, bargained, sold, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these Presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, convey, and confirm unto the said Jabez Olmsted, his heirs and assigns forever, all that my certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being within the Province of the Massachusetts bay, in the Road from Brookfield to Hadley, Containing by estimation five hundred acres more or less, as the same is delineated and decyphered in a Plan thereof on file among the Records of the General Court or Assembly of this Province, which said land, upon Wednesday, twenty-fifth day of May, was allowed and confirmed as the Five hundred acres of land granted unto Richard Hollingsworth, Anno. 1673, by the said General Court, and is the same land which the said Hollingsworth's heirs sold lately unto Samuel Prince, late of Rochester, Yeoman, who sold the same to Thomas Clarke of Boston aforesaid, Merchant, of whom I purchased the same land, together with all and singular the trees, woods, underwoods, profits, privileges, and

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\* Worcester county was not established till 1731.

appurtenances, to the said granted land belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the Reversion and remainders thereof." [*Here follow the usual covenants of warranty.*] "To Have and to Hold the said given and granted land and premises with the appurtenances, unto the said Jabez Olmsted his heirs and assigns forever, to his and their only proper use, benefit and behoof from henceforth and forever."

"In witness whereof I, the said Jonas Clarke have hereunto set my hand and seal the second day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine, and in the second year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second, King over Great Britain, &c.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of }  
 Moses Rice. Benjamin Rolfe. } Jonas Clarke and seal.

Received the day and year above written, off the within named Jabez Olmsted, the sum of four hundred pounds, being the consideration money within expressed.

JONAS CLARKE.

SUFFOLK, SS. Boston, April 2, 1729. The above named Jonas Clarke personally appearing, acknowledged the above written instrument to be his act and Deed

Before me, SAMUEL SEWALL, Jun., Just. Peace.

Received, April 24, 1732, and recorded from Original."

The south-east corner of this tract was near the north line of Hon. Joseph Cummings' farm, on the side hill, above Benjamin Eaton's. Thence the line ran north, taking in the lower falls, and extending to the farm now owned by Joseph Hartwell. Thence it ran west to the Read manor, and south, on its east line, to the south west corner on the plain west of muddy brook, between land of John Gould, and the farm formerly owned by Dea. Enos Davis, covering nearly the whole territory of what is now this village.\*

Upon this tract, I suppose the first settlements in the town were made. Capt. Jabez Olmstead came here from Brookfield, probably in 1729, and built mills upon the falls. He erected a house east of the Bank. The well now used for the tenements next the Bank was dug for his house, which afterwards was a tavern. It was a large two story house, called "the Great House," and was standing when the first movements were made to erect factories here in 1813. Mr. Demond occupied it for a year or more, and it stood till 1821.

Jacob Cummings came here very soon after, from Killingly, Ct. and was one of the most influential men in the establishment of a Church and Society. He located upon the farm now owned by Joel Rice, Esq., and owned that, and

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\* It appears by the Palmer records, that 100 acres adjoining Jabez Olmstead's farm, was granted to his eldest son.

the one now owned by his great grandson, the Hon. Joseph Cummings. This tract was first laid out to Stewart Southgate, clerk of the proprietors of the Elbows.

What is now the south east corner of the town was first settled by Isaac Magoon. He and his son, Isaac Jr., owned the farms now owned by Samuel Gould, Haskell Cummings and Josephus Lamberton, about 700 acres. These lands then belonged to the proprietors of the Elbows, now Palmer. Their grant covered all the lands not included in the ten thousand acres and the five hundred acres, except 1443 acres in the north-east corner of the town, and some small portions since added to this town from Brookfield.

The first settlers on this tract were what would be called in these days, squatters. Judah Marsh came from Hatfield or Hadley about 1730, and settled near Marsh's mills. He married a daughter of Capt. Jabez Olmstead, and his descendants now occupy some portions of the land granted to him and his brothers. The petition and grant may interest the descendants. They are copied from the originals in the Secretary's office at Boston.

“To his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esq. Captain General and Commander in chief of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, &c., The Honorable His Majesty's Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled at Boston, Oct. 3, 1733.

The Petition of us, the subscribers, Humbly sheweth, That your Petitioners are now actually dwelling on a tract of the unappropriated lands of this Province, in the county of Hampshire, bounded south partly by that tract of land called the Elbows and partly by Brookfield township, East by Ware River, North by land lately granted to Col. Lamb and Co., and west by that part of the Equivalent lands belonging to John Read, of Boston, Esq. containing fourteen hundred and forty-three acres, as per a plat of said land herewith presented, more particularly appears, and on said tract of lands we have lived some of us three years where we have spent the most of that little substance we have; and we assure your Honours, it was not the extraordinary goodness or quality of the lands, that induced us to go upon it, for a considerable part of said tract is Ledges of Rocks, and very Rocky, so as to render it unprofitable and almost useless, (as those that are acquainted with it can Testify,) but that which induced us to settle on it, was our necessity, our principle dependance for the support of ourselves is husbandry, and we had not a foot of land to imploy ourselves and families upon, were exposed to idleness and pinching want, and being then unsensible how highly the court resented such a way of settling, and apprehending that the principle thing insisted on was that there should be no trading or stockjobbing, but an actual settlement and improvement in husbandry, by the grantees themselves, with which we were ready to comply.

Wherefore, being thus unhappily intangled on said Land, with great submission, we most humbly move, that this great and Honorable As-



sembly would condescend to exercise their charity and Pitty towards us, in granting us, (out of said land, including the spots we have already begun on,) so much Land as may be a competency for us to improve for a livelyhood for ourselves and children, we have no tho't of any other, but with submission to spend the remainder of our Lives and substances on the spot, are content and ready to submit to any injunctions or Limitations within our reach, this Great and Honorable Court shall think meet to lay upon us, who as in Duty bound, shall ever pray.

his  
JOHN X CLEMENS.  
mark.

THOMAS MARSH.  
WILLIAM CLEMMENS.

his  
JONATHAN X ROOD.  
mark.  
JUDAH MARSH.

In the House of Representatives, Oct. 29, 1733. Read and ordered that the prayer of the Petition as particularly set forth in the vote on the plat of the lands hereto annexed.

Sent up for concurrence,

J. QUINCY, Speaker.

In Council, Oct. 29, 1733. Non-concurred, and ordered that a committee be appointed to view the lands and report.

The House non-concurred in this vote, and the petition was not called up again until 1737.

Here follow the plat of the survey with the oaths administered by Timothy Dwight Esq. of Belchertown, to Nathaniel Dwight the Surveyor, and to William Clements and Jonathan Rood the chain-men.

“In the House of Representatives, Jan. 3, 1737.

Read, and ordered that the petition be revived, and that the plat be accepted, and that the lands therein delineated and described be and hereby are confirmed to the said Thomas Marsh, William Clements, John Clements, Jonathan Rood, Judah Marsh, and Samuel Marsh, their heirs and assigns respectively, provided each of the grantees do within the space of five years from this date, have six acres of the granted premises brought to English grass, or broken up by plowing, and each of them have a good dwelling-house thereon, of eighteen feet square, and seven feet stud at the least, and each a family dwelling therein, that they actually bring to the settlement of said Lands by themselves, or their children as above laid, provided also, the plat exceeds not the quantity of fourteen hundred and forty-three acres, and does not interfere with any former grant, and also that the grantees do within twelve months, pay to the Province Treasury, five pounds each, for the use of this province.

Sent up for concurrence,

J. QUINCY, Speaker.

In Council, Jan. 4, 1737. Read and concurred.

SIMON FROST, Deputy Sec'y.

Consented to. J. BELCHER.

I have been more particular in tracing the origin of the grants, because I found the traditions so erroneous. It appears to have been the custom of the Indians to burn over this territory, to aid them in securing game. The practice had destroyed the forests to a great extent, and doubtless injured the soil. Brookfield was settled as early as 1673, and the inhabitants used these lands for pasturing, and continued the practice of burning to improve the feed. Brookfield pastures was their common name. So bare of timber was the country, that the early settlers of Warren, on coming to the top of Coy's hill, could discern a stray beast any where in this whole valley.

The town seems to have taken its name from the river passing through it, which bears the same name, from its sources to its junction with the Chicopee of which it is the middle and longest branch. It abounded with fish, the falls being a famous place for taking salmon. Weirs or Wears were constructed to aid in taking them, and hence the name of Wear River, which was afterwards spelled Ware. It is not so sweet as the Indian name "Nenameseck," the meaning of which I am not able to give.

The town does not appear to have been settled very rapidly. The soil was poor, and we cannot appreciate the hardships the early settlers encountered. In 1742, when by the aid of Mr. Read, they petitioned to be incorporated as a town, it seems there were but thirty-three families here. The petition, report of the committee, and act of incorporation, are carefully copied into the book of records, and from that time to the present, the records have been regularly kept, and carefully preserved. Few towns can show a more perfect record of their affairs from their first incorporation than this town.

In the history I shall give, from this period, I shall confine myself as closely to record evidence, as I have in searching for the grants.

The town as incorporated, contains a tract lying mostly between Ware river and Swift river, being about six and a half miles long east and west, by four and a half north and south. It is the south-east corner town of Hampshire County.

The Read Manor was the first located in 1713.

The Hollingsworth grant, taking in the tract now occupied by the village and the water power, 1715. The Elbow tract was laid out in 1732. And the Marsh and Clements grant in 1733.

"To his Excellency William Shirley, Esq., Captain General and Governour in Chief, the honorable the Council and Representatives in General Court assembled 26th May 1742. The petition of Thomas Marsh and others to the number of thirty-three house holders, about and between Wear River and Swift River, near Brookfield, humbly Sheweth. That your Petitioners are settled on a tract of land bounded, beginning at the Southwest Corner of the ten thousand acres of Equivalent land at Swift River, thence running due east to Brookfield Bounds, thence on Brookfield to Ware River, thence on Ware River to Hardwick, thence on Hardwick to the ten thousand acres of Equivalent lands aforesaid, and thence on the Bounds of the said ten thousand acres, including the same unto the first mentioned Boundings. They dwell at a great distance from any place of public worship, most of them six or seven miles, and therefore cannot enjoy that privilege in their present condition, but as their Hearts are sincerely desirous of the Public Worship of God, they persuade themselves they shall be able chearfully to bear the Charge that will attend it. But as some of them belong to the town at the Elbows, some to Brookfield, and the rest of them live on farms of the Province Grants, they cannot properly and lawfully Proceed to erect and maintain the Public Worship of God among them, without the aid of this Court, and therefore Pray this honorable Court by a suitable Committee of this Court, to inquire into their state and circumstances, and make them a separate and distinct Township or Parish, and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

JOHN READ, for the Petitioners.

JABEZ OLMSTEAD.	PAUL THURSTON.	JOSEPH MARKS, SEN.
JERM. OLMSTEAD.	EDM'D. AYRES.	JOSEPH MARKS.
ISRAEL OLMSTEAD.	ISAAC MAGOON, JUN.	JOSEPH BROOKS.
JACOB CUMMINGS, JUN.	WM. PATERSON.	BENJ'. SHIPLE.
NAHUM DAVIS.	JOSEPH SIMONS.	JOHN ANDERSON.
JAMES CUMMINGS.	JOB CORLY,	THO'S. CHAPIN.
JOS. MARSH.	SAM'L. MARSH.	DANIEL THURSTON.
RICH'D. ROGERS.	JUDAH MARSH.	ISAAC MAGOON.
JACOB CUMMINGS.	EPH'M. MARSH.	JOHN POST.
SAM'L. ALLEN.	THOMAS MARSH.	SAM'L. DAVIS.

In the House of Representatives, June 2, 1742. Read and ordered that Capt. Patridge and Capt Converse with such as the honorable Board shall joine, be a Committee to view the State and Circumstances of the Petitioners. They giving seasonable Notice to the Inhabitants or Proprietors of Brookfield and the Elbows (so called) and the Inhabitants of Western who may be affected thereby: that they may be present at the meeting of said Committee if they see Cause: The Committee to report as soon as may be what they judge proper for the Court to do in answer to this Petition. Sent up for concurrence. T. Cushing Spk'r. In Council June 8, 1742. Read and Concurred and Joseph Wilder, Esq. is joined in the affair.

J. WILLARD SECT.

Consented to W. SHIRLEY.

Copy examined by J. WILLARD, SECT.

The Committee appointed on the Petition of Thomas Marsh and others living near Ware River, in the County of Hampshire, have at-



tended on said service, been upon the Spot, viewed the Lands Prayed for to be erected into a township, inquired into the Circumstances of the petitioners, and heard the objections of some of the Inhabitants of Kingstown,\* and are of opinion that the Petitioners at present are not sufficient in order to erect a Town, with privileges, &c. But inasmuch as they Live at a weary great distance from any place of public worship and meet with great difficulty thereby, we are further of opinion that the Petitioners living Northward of a Line Run due east† from the Southwest Corner of the land Belonging to John Read, Esq., to Western Line, be freed from all Taxes to any other place or Town during the Pleasure of the General Court, so that they may be able to Provide Preaching among themselves which is submitted in the name and by order of the Committee.

Dec. 4, 1742.

JOSEPH WILDER.

In council Read and ordered that this Report be accepted and also that the Lands within the limits above mentioned, and the Inhabitants thereon, be erected into a Precinct, and that the said Inhabitants have the Powers and Privileges which other Precincts do, or by Law ought to enjoy, and that they be and hereby are obliged to maintain the Public worship of God among them in the Support of a learned orthodox minister. Sent down for Concurrence.

J. WILLARD, SECT.

In the house of Representatives, Dec. 7, 1742. Read and Concurred.

Attest, ROLAND COTTON, CLERK. Dom. Rep.

Consented to, W. SHIRLEY.

Copy examined per J. WILLARD, SECT.

The following deed from Mr. Read, will show that he took some interest in establishing religious institutions here.

“To all People to whom this writing shall come, I John Read of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, Send Greeting. Know Ye that for the founding and Indowment of a Parish Church on the Ten Thousand acres of Equivalent lands, lying on the East side of Swift River, upon the Road from Brookfield to Hadley, and now called the mannor of Peace, I do hereby give, grant, convey and confirm unto Jabez Olmstead, Gent. and Isaac Magoon, Yeoman, living near the said mannor, and William Blackmer, John Davis and Benjamin Lull of the said mannor, Yeomen, the Sixth lot of land from the North of the fourth *Tier* of *lots* from the East in the mannor of Peace, Extending South on a four rod highway a hundred rod wide, and from thence West and by South half a mile long. Also, part of the fifth lot near against the middle of that extending west and by South on the Main road twenty rod wide and from thence North twenty four rod long with the appurtenances. To Have and to Hold the Sixth lot and part of the fifth lot aforesaid with the appurtenances to them the said Jabez Olmstead, Isaac Magoon, William Blackmer, John Davis and Benjamin Lull, and their heirs forever, in special Trust and confidence for the only uses, intents

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\* Now Palmer.

† The South line of the Equivalent ran E. by N. The strip between these lines was called “The Garter.”

and purposes hereafter exprest, viz. for the use of the first minister of God's Holy word and Sacraments, who shall be freely chosen by the Inhabitants, free holders of the said mannor and such others as the laws of the Government shall joyn in one Parish with them, or by the major part of them, and thereupon be lawfully Instituted and Ordained to that holy office there and such his successors forever, in pure and perpetual Almes, and for these special purposes, viz. the three acres, part of the fifth lot aforesaid, for the founding and continuance of a Parish Church and Christian Burying place forever : and the Sixth lot for a Glebe thereunto annexed for the improvement of such Minister and his Successors at their discretion towards their maintenance and support forever. In witness whereof I hereunto put my hand and seal this nineteenth day of September, Anno Dom. seventeen hundred and forty eight.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of } JNO. READ, and Seal.  
JOSEPH AYRES, LEMUEL BLACKMER.

Hampshire, ss. At an Inferiour Court of Common Pleas, held at Northampton by adjournment on the first Tuesday of March Anno Dom. 1757. Then Lemuel Blackmer one of the Witnesses to ye within written Instrument appearing, made solemn Oath that he saw John Read, Esq., now deceased, in his lifetime, sign, seal, and Execute the within instrument, as his act and deed, that he signed as a Witness to the same, and saw Joseph Ayres sign as a Witness also, at ye same time.

Attest, J. WILLIAMS, CLERK.

Rec'd. March 24th, 1757, and Recorded from the Original.

EDW'D. PYNCHON, REG'R.

The warrant for the first meeting of the precinct was issued Feb. 18, 1742-3 by William Pynchon, Esq. of Springfield. It will be remembered that the change from the old style to new was not recognized in this country until 1752. Previous to which the year commenced on the 25th March, and the dates upon our records, between the 1st of January and that time are double. The first meeting was March 15, 1742-3, at the house of Jabez Olmstead, near where the Bank now is, where they met for some years. Jacob Cummings was the Moderator of the first meeting, and he with Edward Ayres and Joseph Simons were chosen Precinct Committee, John Post, clerk. The object of this meeting, after choosing Precinct officers, was to raise money to defray the expenses of the act of incorporation, and for preaching the Gospel. It was voted to raise ten pounds and six shillings old tenor, to pay the charge of the committee, surveyor, and chain-men, and to raise forty pounds, old tenor, to hire preaching with. In consequence of the depreciation of the currency at that time, two shillings and eight pence sterling, was the value of twenty shillings, old tenor.

It was not my intention to go into the ecclesiastical history of the town at this time, but to leave that part to those who may properly be supposed to take the deepest interest in those things. But I should give you but a meagre account of the first settlers of the town, were I to omit this part of their history. It was their desire to hear the gospel which moved them to get set off as a separate parish, and the records show that its maintenance was first in their hearts. Up to the time of the organization of the East Congregational Society, in 1826, there was but one religious Society in town. All the business relating to the settlement and support of ministers was transacted in town meeting. I shall therefore give a brief history of the ministry in town. May 5, 1743. The Precinct "voted to hire Mr. Dickinson to preach among us, until the forty pounds we granted is spent." In March, 1744, sixty pounds were raised for the support of the gospel, and several candidates employed. In Nov. 1745, Mr. Henry Carey was invited to settle as their minister, but declined.

Soon after the incorporation of the Precinct, efforts were made to build a house of worship, but they could not agree upon the spot. Nathaniel Dwight of Belchertown, was employed to find the geographical centre of the town, which is a few rods north of the meeting house now standing in the west parish. In 1748, it was voted "to build a house 40 by 35, 18 feet posts, to pay twelve shillings, old tenor, for common laborers, eighteen shillings for team and cart." But nothing efficient was done, until Sept. 1750, when it was voted to build a house 30 by 25,—15 feet posts. "Voted to raise the sum of thirty pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, lawful money, to defray the charges of building and covering the meeting house. £20 13s. 4d. to be paid in labor and covering and slitwork, provided that every freeholder will pay to the committee or collector the labor or materials his due proportion,—that he shall be assessed, upon suitable notice, and four pounds for to procure nails for the meeting house. Voted, that labor shall be set at the value of eighteen shillings per day, and team work answerable, and boards at nine pounds, equal to old tenor, and shingles at four pounds ten shillings, old tenor." Jacob Cummings, Joseph Scott, Edward Ayres, Samuel Allen, and John Taplin, were chosen building committee. It was some years before the house was completed, if it was ever entirely done. "Sept. 4, 1760.—It was voted to have an

alley three feet wide, between the men's and women's seats." In June, 1762, "voted to allow Thomas Andrews six pounds to plaister the meeting house over head." Sept. 24, 1766, "Voted, that Thomas Andrews shall halve the boards over head in the meeting house, and is to have what the workmen judge it worth for said halving." It was used as a place of worship until the year 1800, when the house that has been recently remodeled in the west parish, was built.

March, 1750-51, "it was voted to ordain the worthy Mr. Grindall Rawson in this Precinct, on the second Wednesday in May next." His answer to the call is dated Feb. 11, 1750, and as a specimen of the man and of the times, I copy it from the records, where it is entered, apparently in his own hand writing.

"MY BRETHREN,

Since you were so unanimous in your invitation of me to settle with you in the work of the Gospel Ministry. (there being not so much as one negative vote,) upon seriously addressing myself to the throne of grace, as I trust for direction, in the great affair, after proper reflection upon the difficulties you would be likely to be thrown into upon my leaving you,—notwithstanding the great discouragements in regard to my outward subsistence at present, and the many satisfactions of life of which I foresee I must deny myself, more I believe than you are sensible of, or is any way necessary for me to recite, which have set very heavy upon my mind, and have for a long time preyed upon my spirits, and had I have hearkened to the struggles of animal nature, would soon have determined me to have left you, tho' in the greatest confusion; yet a sense of duty and a desire of promoting your everlasting peace and welfare, have counterpoised all other difficulties, so that I have concluded to comply with your request, and accept of your invitation; hoping that God in his Providence will so order it, that we shall be mutual blessings to one another. And as it is not yours, but you that I shall seek, I hope that you will be ready to contribute to me at all times of your temporals, as I shall be ready to do to you in spirituals, to the utmost of my power, and have no greater joy, I hope, than in promoting your good, and seeing you walking in the truth, and that I shall so walk before you in a sober and Godly life, that you may have me for an example, and that both in my living and preaching, I may set forward the religion of Jesus.

Brethren, pray for me, that I may be made a precious gift of our ascended Saviour to you. I hope that you will never do any thing to weaken my hands or discourage my heart, [which I assure you is almost dismayed already under the gloomy prospect,] nor expect perfection from me, for I am a *man of like passions*, and subject to human infirmities, which I hope you will ever be ready to cover with a mantle of love. And that you may behave yourselves, as becomes knowing, wise and discreet christians, nothing wavering or unsteady, shall ever be my prayer for you.

GRINDALL RAWSON."

PEACE, FEB. 11, 1750.



Mr. Rawson's salary for the first two years was to be £45, the third year three pounds to be added, and four pounds annually afterwards till it should be sixty pounds, and £100 settlement. He was ordained May 8, 1751.\* The same day a church was organized, but it is not known of how many members it consisted. It must have been small, as the whole number which had been admitted at the time of Mr. Rawson's dismissal, Jan. 19, 1754, was but 43. But little is known of Mr. Rawson's history or character. Traditional accounts represent him as a man of little seriousness, comeliness or refinement. Some disaffection seems to have shown itself soon after his settlement, for May 12, 1752, it was voted, "to reconsider the vote giving Mr. Rawson a call, and for paying the salary and settlement." The collectors neglected or refused to collect the taxes for his salary, and a petition was sent to his Majesty's council and House of Representatives, asking power to excuse the collectors, and choose others in their stead, which was granted.

Mr. Rawson's request for a dismissal is upon record as follows:

"To the Committee of Ware River Parish, to be communicated to the parish.

You are sensible that for some time I have wanted to be released from my relation to Ware River Parish as a minister, and as the major part of the voters have dismissed me from my relation to them as a minister, I gladly accept the opportunity of releasing myself from you, especially as the major part of my church have this day invited me to accompany them into a new settlement of which I have accepted, and I therefore do now release you from your relation to me as a minister from this day forward, as witness my hand, Jan. 30, 1754.

GRINDALL RAWSON."

It does not appear that any council was called to dissolve the connexion. Mr. Rawson was afterwards settled in Yarmouth, Mass. in 1755, where he remained but a few years.

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\* The Council at the ordination of Mr. Rawson, were

Rev. John Campbell, of Oxford.

" Grindall Rawson, of Hadlyme, Conn.

" Robert Breck, 1st church, of Springfield.

" Caleb Rice, of Sturbridge.

" David White, of Hardwick.

" Noah Mirick, of 4th church, Springfield, (now Wilbraham.)

" Thomas Skinner, of Westchester, in Colechester, Ct.

" Benjamin Bowers, of Middle Haddam, Ct.

" Isaac Jones, of Western, (now Warren.)

" Pelatiah Webster, of Quabbin, (now Greenwich.)

each with his delegate.

He is believed to have been a Chaplain in the Revolution.\*

After Mr. Rawson's dismissal, there does not appear to have been regular preaching for some time. The poverty of the people rendered it exceeding difficult to collect the taxes. It appears the precinct "voted Jan. 1, 1755, that the collectors of Ware River Parish that are behind in their collections, pay in and make up their collection to the Parish Committee, excepting so much as the court assigned to Mr. Rawson, by the hand of Mr. Edward Ayres, for this reason, that the Parish Treasurer is reduced to such low circumstances, that the parish are not willing to trust any more in his hands."

In the fall of 1758, the church and Precinct called Mr. Ezra Thayer to become their minister, and he was ordained Jan. 10, 1759. His salary was to be £40 for three years, then £3 to be added yearly till it became £55, and as settlement, £100. A deed of the parsonage land is acknowledged by him as part of the settlement, £66 13s. 4d. He lived where Samuel Holbrook now lives. To this time the church had no confession of faith, and one was proposed by the ordaining council and adopted. The half way covenant plan prevailed to considerable extent, and injured the prosperity of the church. Mr. Thayer continued to be minister till his death, Feb. 12, 1775. Seventy-nine were received into the church in full communion, during his ministry.

Mr. Thayer was a native of Mendon, graduated at Harvard College, 1756. He is said to have been a plain man, of pleasing address, and to have secured the confidence of the people. The town erected tomb stones to mark the place of his burial, as a token of their respect.

The following is the Epitaph on his tomb stone, now standing in the burying ground in the West Parish.

"In Memory of the Rev. Ezra Thayer, the Learned, Pious, Faithful, and Deservedly Esteemed Pastor of the Church in this town, who

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\* I find there have been three ministers of the same name,—Grindall Rawson, who graduated at Harvard College, 1678, settled in Mendon 1680, where he died, 1715.

Another Grindall Rawson graduated at Harvard College, 1728—was settled as the first minister in South Hadley, 1733, where he is spoken of by President Edwards, as a successful minister. He was afterwards settled at Hadlyme, Ct. 1745, where he died in 1777. Grindall Rawson, the first minister in Ware, graduated at Harvard College, 1741, and died in 1794, aged 73. The first was probably the grand-father, the second, an uncle of the latter.

died Feb. 12, 1775, in the 43d year of his age, and the 16th of his ministry.

Go reader mind  
The better part,  
Believe the Gospel,  
Mend thy heart.  
Go learn to live,  
Learn to die,  
For die thou must  
As well as I."

In 1780, Mr. Winslow Packard was invited to become the minister, but declined this, as well as a renewal of the call. In 1785, Mr. Jeremiah Hallock preached here as a candidate, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to settle him. While he was preaching here, an unusual interest was manifested in religion. He afterwards was an eminent minister at Canton, Ct., and an interesting memoir of him was compiled by Rev. Cyrus Yale, of New Hartford, Ct. A few sentences from his diary, while he was preaching in this place, will be interesting.

"1785, Oct. 17, Sabbath. Spent some time in meditation and prayer this morning. The people were very attentive. O, may I never forget the mercies of the Lord.—Had a very full and attentive conference this evening. Had freedom in discourse, and so had others.—Some appearance of an awakening—O, may it come on, O, may it come on. Nov. 7.—A remarkable meeting this evening. Some suppose there were three hundred persons present—was enabled to preach with freedom to the most affected audience I ever saw.

Feb. 1. Visited my pleasant grove, and took my farewell of Ware. I have been there twelve Sabbaths. When I came the young people were light and gay, but it has pleased God to awaken them so that their frolicks are turned into conferences, and to God's name be all the glory. There are about twelve hopeful converts."

In July, 1785, Mr. Benjamin Judd was invited to settle as a minister, and was ordained, Oct. 12. He probably came from the county of Berkshire, as his ordination sermon was preached by Rev. Daniel Collins of Lanesboro'. Dr. West of Stockbridge, Rev. Mr. Perry of Richmond, and Rev. Mr. Munson of Lenox, were members of the council. The people were not united in calling Mr. Judd, and unhappily difficulties soon arose, which resulted in his dismis-



sion, Sept. 28, 1787, and no minister was settled for five years.

In March, 1792, the church and town gave an unanimous invitation to Mr. Reuben Moss, to become their minister, and he was ordained June 12th. He was a native of Cheshire, Ct., graduated at Yale College, 1787, and studied Theology with Rev. Dr. Trumbull, of New Haven. He received £80 salary, and £150 settlement. The following is his answer to the call, copied from the original, which has been carefully preserved.

*“ To the Church and other Inhabitants in Ware.*

*Brothren and Friends,*

I have taken your Call to settle with you as a Gospel minister, into serious, deliberate and prayerful Consideration. Influenced by Solomon's Assertion, In the multitude of Counsellors there is safety, I have also asked the opinion of my Honoured Parents and of many Reverend Fathers in the Ministry. On the whole, reviewing the singular Providence of God, in opening a door for me to preach the gospel among you, the Unanimity of your hearts in Electing me for your pastor, Your generous Proposals for my temporal support and the joint Encouragement of all to whom I have made application for advice to go forward, I am inclined to think that the Voice of the People is the voice of God, saying this is the way, walk in it: however, contemplating the Magnitude and extent of a good work, how many fiery darts may be hurled at an Officer in the Church militant, and the Solemn account all who watch for souls must give at the last great day, I am ready to adopt the language of the apostle, who is sufficient for these things. But the Captain of our Salvation hath said, Lo I am with you always. Animated by this Great and precious promise, I Cheerfully comply with your joint invitation. Let me be Interested always in your effectual fervent prayers, and constantly supported by your pious Examples, and I think I shall be cordially willing to spend and be spent for you.

I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would satisfy you Early with his mercies, do you good and make you Glad according to the days wherein he hath afflicted you, and the years wherein you have seen Evil. Now the God of hope pour his spirit upon you, and his blessing upon your offspring and fill you all, both old and young with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the holy Ghost. Permit me to subscribe myself your servant for Jesus' Sake.

REUBEN MOSS.

N. B. As Ware is so far from my kindred according to the flesh, from the public seats of Literature, &c., I may have occasion to be absent three or four Sabbaths Yearly.

P. S. It is written If any man provide not for his own but especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an Infidel. You will expect therefore that I pay suitable attention to the things which are seen. I shall consider it an act of kindness if

the town will give their obligation to Mr. Thomas Marsh for forty-five pounds as soon as he procures and delivers me a Warranty Deed of the seventeen acres of land called his wife's thirds. If it be your pleasure that the year in our computation of time respecting my annual Salary commence the first day of April, when I last returned to you from Pelham, I have no objections.—Once more I beg leave to rely on your punctuality. Punctuality will be best for you, for in general sufficient unto a year are the burdens thereof. Punctuality I apprehend will be of great service to me. I suppose I shall be willing to enter into a family state, as soon as I can procure Decent Buildings without being much involved, and I have but little to depend on to defray the expense of Building, besides my annual income and the kind donation of a generous people. Punctuality, therefore, and any assistance which has been or may be proposed, will be received with gratitude by him who is cheerfully devoted to the service of God our Saviour among you. Finally, Brethren, be perfect, be of good Comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you. Happy is that People that is in such a case, yea happy is that People whose God is the Lord.

WARE, MAY 18, 1792.

#### REUBEN MOSS, TO THE WHOLE TOWN,

GREETING.

As it is customary in this Commonwealth for every family to make an Entertainment, I am sensible the expenses of Ordination have been pretty considerable. And you been at some Cost and pains in sending to call my distant friends. Desirous therefore of sharing with you in the Expenses of Ordination and of exhibiting a public solid testimony of my grateful sense of your kindness in sending so far to my old friends, I request you to accept of five pounds. If you comply with this request, the Assessors may be directed to make a rate bill for this year's Salary, which will amount only to seventy-five pounds.

*The Moderator of the Town Meeting of Ware, to be communicated.*

WARE, JUNE 26, 1792.

In answer to this, the town voted "to accept of Mr. Moss' gratis."

Mr. Moss continued in the ministry in this place until his death, Feb. 17, 1809, more than sixteen years. He was a very successful and devoted minister. During his labors, fifty were added to the church, forty-two by profession, and eight by recommendation from other churches. He was a man of ardent piety, of refined feelings, and somewhat distinguished as a Biblical scholar. As a preacher, he was plain and practical, and enforced his instructions by a blameless example. Many now remember him as the faithful and affectionate friend of the young. He was particular in his attention to the district schools. At the time of his settlement they were in a low and disorderly state, but they very soon became very much improved through his attention and influence. By his effort in this department of his labors, he

was instrumental in preparing a large number of young men to engage in the instruction of schools in this and neighboring towns. No town in this vicinity it is said, furnished so many teachers. The tone of moral feeling and the standard of education were greatly raised among the people. Twice during his ministry, he was afflicted with derangement, and died at the age of fifty.\*

July 9, 1810. Rev. Samuel Ware was invited to settle as minister, and was ordained Oct. 31. Salary, \$400, and a settlement of \$500, if he should remain fifteen years. He was a useful minister, and was much blessed in his labors, for more than fifteen years, and gathered one hundred and ninety-seven into the church, 177 by profession, and 20 by letter from other churches. He was dismissed in consequence of ill health, in 1826, and the following vote passed by the town, July 3, will show the esteem in which he was held. "Voted, unanimously, that agreeably to his request, we dismiss and cordially recommend the Rev. Samuel Ware, as an exemplary christian, and an able, judicious and faithful minister of the gospel."

In July 19, 1826, Rev. Augustus B. Reed, a native of Rehoboth, and graduate of Brown University, in 1821, was installed as pastor of the church and people. The same council dismissed Mr. Ware, who is still living. To this time, all business pertaining to the affairs of the parish had been done in town meeting. Mr. Reed continued the minister of the first parish until June 5, 1838, when he was dismissed on account of feeble health. He died in this town, Sept. 30, 1838, aged nearly 40.

Rev. Hervey Smith, his successor, was installed Sept. 19, 1838, dismissed 1840, and is now living in the state of New York.

Rev. William E. Dixon, of Enfield, Ct., a graduate of Williams College, was ordained Jan. 14, 1841, and dismissed May 26, 1842. He is now living in his native place.

Rev. David N. Coburn, from Thompson, Ct., a graduate of Amherst College, was ordained Sept. 21, 1842, and is the present minister of the first church.

Until 1825, the inhabitants of the town had generally met in one place of worship. In consequence of the flourishing

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\* Mr. Moss married Mrs. Hadassah Cheesebrough, of Stonington, Ct. where some of his descendants now live. He built the house now owned by Reuel Washburn. It was afterwards owned by Rev. Mr. Ware.

village which rose as by magic in that year on the eastern border of the town, containing about one half of the population, it was found necessary to form a new society, and erect a house of worship. In April, 1826, a society was organized, and a church formed, April 12. Rev. Parsons Cook, a native of Hadley, and a graduate of Williams College, was ordained June 21, 1826.\* The same year the house of worship now occupied by the East Congregational Society was built. The house has been remodelled the past year, and will compare advantageously with any house in the commonwealth west of Worcester. It will seat 900 persons. Mr. Cook continued pastor of the church until April 13, 1835. He gathered 350 members into the church during his ministry. He was succeeded by Rev. Cyrus Yale, from New Hartford, Ct., installed June 11, 1835, who was dismissed, and returned to his former field of labor Aug. 3, 1837.

Rev. Jonathan Edwards Woodbridge, a native of Worthington in this county, and college class-mate of Mr. Cook, was installed May 2, 1838. He was dismissed Dec. 28, 1840, to become one of the editors of the N. E. Puritan, in connexion with Rev. Mr. Cook.

June 28, 1842, the present minister, Rev. Nahum Gale was ordained. He is a native of Auburn, Mass. and was graduated at Amherst College, 1837.

Since the Village sprung up, a small Methodist Society has existed here.

A Baptist Society, just over the line in Hardwick has existed for more than fifty years, to which Rev. Ebenezer Burt has preached most of the time, and to which some families in this town have belonged. During the last year, a Baptist church has been organized in the Village, and Rev. Amory Gale, a graduate of Brown University, was ordained Nov. 11, 1846. They have not yet erected a house of worship, but propose to do so this year.

A small Free Will Baptist church has existed a few years in the southwest part of the town, but has no house of worship.

A house is now going up for an Unitarian Society in the Village.

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\* The services at the ordination were, Sermon, by Rev. Dr. Woodbridge, of Hadley. Ordaining Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Vaill, of Brimfield. Charge, by Rev. Mr. Ely of Monson. Right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Gridley of Williamstown. Concluding Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Sweet, of Palmer.



The following persons have been deacons in the first church, viz:—

JACOB CUMMINGS,	Chosen 1751.	Died Feb. 27, 1776.
JOHN DAVIS,	" 1751.	Date of death not known.
MAVERICK SMITH,	" 1758.	Died Sept. 11, 1789.
THOMAS JENKINS,	" 1768.	" March 24, 1792.
WILLIAM PAIGE,	" 1789.	" June 23, 1826.
DANIEL GOULD,	" 1789.	" July 10, 1834.
JOSEPH CUMMINGS,	" 1815.	Dismissed, 1826.
ELI SNOW,	" 1815.	Died, Dec. 23, 1835.
WARNER BROWN,	" 1826.	Deposed, 1830.
ENOS DAVIS,	" 1830.	Died May 10, 1837.
ABNER LEWIS,	" 1835.	
THOMAS SNELL,	" 1837.	

The deacons in the East Congregational Church.

JOSEPH CUMMINGS,	chosen in 1826.	
LUTHER BROWN,	" " 1826.	Resigned, 1841.
THOMAS THWING,	" " 1826.	" 1837.
JOHN TOLMAN,	" " 1837.	
WILLIAM HYDE,	" " 1837.	
LEWIS DEMOND,	" " 1844.	



## CIVIL HISTORY.

Ware was incorporated as a town Nov. 25, 1761. The first warrant for town meeting was issued by Eleazar Porter, Esq. of Hadley, Feb. 23, 1762, and the meeting held March 9th. William Brakenridge was chosen clerk. He had been clerk of the Precinct from 1757, and held the office until 1777. The first board of Selectmen were Samuel Sherman, William Brakenridge, John Davis, Jacob Cummings, and Judah Marsh, who were also Assessors,—Jacob Cummings, Treasurer. The first town meetings were called in His Majesty's name, which continued till 1776. Then they were called "in the name of Massachusetts and the people," or "the government and the people of Massachusetts Bay in New England," till the adoption of the State Constitution, in 1780, when the present style was adopted, "in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

In March, 1775, William Brakenridge was chosen delegate to the Provincial Congress. In May of the same year "it was voted to choose three men to take turns to attend the



Congress, a free gratis, the district bearing their expense," and it appears that in October, that William Brakenridge was allowed £3 6s. 8d. and Joseph Foster was allowed £3 9s. 6d. Dea. Thomas Jenkins was the other delegate. In 1778, a frame of government, or Constitution was sent out to the people, and unanimously rejected. The action of this town upon the Constitution that was sent out to the people, in 1780, is a curious chapter in history, and is worthy of being copied entire, as an illustration of the difficulties our fathers encountered when they undertook to set up a government of their own.

"May 17, 1780. The meeting being opened, made choice of Lieut. Abraham Cummings moderator for said meeting.

Voted to choose a committee of seven men to consider of the Constitution, made choice of Capt. Wm. Brakenridge, Deacon Thomas Jenkins, Mr. Thomas McClintock, Lieut. Abraham Cummings, Mr. Samuel Dunsmore, Dea. Maverick Smith, and one Tisdale.

Voted to adjourn the meeting till Thursday, the 25th inst. at 1 o'clock. Met and adjourned till Wednesday, the 31st inst. at 1 o'clock. Met according to adjournment. Voted not to accept of the whole of the Constitution. Voted to accept the sixteenth article of the Bill of rights, with this amendment:—Where it does not hurt the innocent frame of government.

Chap. 1. Sec. 2. Art. 1.—Voted to take off one third of the council and Senate.

Sec. 3. Art. 2.—Voted that no town shall send more than four Representatives.

Chap. 2. Sec. 1. Art. 2.—Voted that the Governor shall be of the Protestant religion.

Art. 13.—Voted that Salaries shall be lowered as well as raised.

Chap. 3, Art. 1.—Voted that the word Shall, be put in instead of the word May.

Chap. 6. Art. 3.—Voted, that they shall not increase the qualifications of property, of persons to be elected to office.

Thirty-one persons voted to accept the Constitution with the alterations here made, except one man against the third article of the declaration of rights."

If the Constitution fared as hard in other towns, we may wonder how our government had an existence. We must

remember, that there was no model in Europe or elsewhere that our fathers would follow; and though some of these votes may seem to us strange, they at least shew that the men of those times thought for themselves. It shows also, that some things which have provoked much discussion within a few years, especially with regard to the lowering of salaries, were as well considered then.

This was during the war of the Revolution, when money was scarce, and the inhabitants being poor, suffered great hardships. They do not seem to have been destitute of patriotism, for the records show, that they made great efforts to comply with the requisitions for men and for supplies. "In 1777, the town voted to raise eight men for the Continental army, and to pay each man twenty pounds as a bounty from the town. In 1778, voted to raise the clothing for the soldiers, to allow six dollars a pair for shoes, four dollars a pair for stockings, ten shillings a yard for cloth a yard wide. Edward Demond, Jr. to provide twenty-one yards." These prices were in consequence of the depreciation of the continental money. In 1780, the town raised £1,000 to hire preaching, £1,500 for town charges, £2,000 to repair highways, at \$20 a day.

The same year Mr. Winslow Packard was invited to become the minister, with £130 settlement, £45 salary "to be stated on the following articles. Wheat, at five shillings per bushel. Rye, at three shillings and four pence per bushel. Indian corn, at two shillings and six pence per bushel. Pork, at three pence half penny per pound. Beef, at two pence per pound. Sheep's wool, at one shilling and six pence per pound. Butter, at seven pence per pound. Labor, at two shillings and six pence per day in hay time." "It was also voted to pay Capt. Brakenridge seven shillings per week for boarding Mr. Packard, the old way, or eighty double Continental money." Deacon William Paige was also allowed "seven shillings a week old way, or seventy-two double continental."

Daniel Gould, Oliver Coney, and David Brown, were allowed for twelve days making taxes; eight dollars a day, ninety-six dollars.

Sept. 1780.—It was voted to raise thirteen thousand six hundred and eighty pounds to pay the soldiers that are now in service. Jan. 1781.—Mr. Davenport was allowed three hundred twenty-eight pounds for preaching, forty pounds per day.

March, 1781. The poll-tax was thirty pounds ten shillings. Maverick Smith, Daniel Gould, and David Brown were allowed for making taxes 35 days, at \$20 a day, two hundred and ten pounds.

At the first election under the Constitution, Sept. 4, 1780, John Hancock had 20 votes for Governor,

James Bowdoin, 1 vote

Robert Treat Paine, 1 vote.

Azor One, had 10 votes for Lieut. Governor.

Artemas Ward had 4 votes.

Senators—Joseph Hawley,	14.	Col. Woodbridge,	18
John Bliss,	16.	Lawyer Strong,	8
Timothy Danielson,	6.	Eleazar Porter,	2

“ March, 1782. Voted to allow Daniel Gould, and Thomas Tuffs one pound, four shillings, for collecting town beef ; allowed Daniel Gould sixteen shillings and six pence, for keeping and driving town beef ; allowed Francis Brakenridge twelve shillings, for driving beef cattle to Hampton.” These were supplies for the army.

In April, 1786, James Bowdoin for Gov. 20 votes.

John Hancock, “ 1 “

Thomas Cushing, Lieut. Gov. 18 votes.

Senators—Timothy Danielson,	16.	Oliver Phelps,	15
Caleb Strong,	16.	Wm. Brakenridge	21

In Aug. 1786, the Shays Insurrection began to make trouble in this section of Massachusetts, and a town meeting was called on the 18th, to “see if the town will choose a delegate or delegates to attend at a county convention that is appointed to be holden at Hatfield on Tuesday, the 22d of Aug. inst. at 10 A. M. at the house of Col. Seth Murray, to see if a constitutional way of relief, or some legal method cannot be proposed, for the security and safety of the good people of this commonwealth, against the burdens and distresses that prevail at the present day.” Capt. Bullen was chosen to go to the convention. David Brown, Isaac Pepper, and Daniel Gould were chosen a committee to give directions to Capt. Bullen. In Nov. Isaac Pepper was chosen delegate to a convention at Hadley, and in Jan. 1787, to another at Hatfield.

In Jan. 1787, the town voted the following list of grievances, probably the same voted by the convention.

“ 1. The fee table as it now stands.

2. The present appropriation of the impost and excise money.

3. The unreasonable grants made to some of the officers of government.

4. The supplementary code.

5. The present mode of paying government securities.

6. The present mode of taxation, as it operates unequally betwixt the mercantile and landed interest.

7. The want of a medium of trade to remedy the evil arising from the scarcity of money.

8. The General Court, sitting in the town of Boston

9. The suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus repealed.

10. The Riot Act repealed.

11. Voted to have the Constitution revised.

12. Voted to have the C. C. Pleas abolished.

Voted to send a petition to the General Court for a redress of grievances, chose a committee of five men to make a draft of a Petition, chose Isaac Pepper, Lieut. Cummings, Mr. Samuel Dunsmore, Capt. Brakenridge, and Mr. William Paige.

Voted to send three men as a committee to General Lincoln and Capt. Shays, to consult on some measures for peace, chose Capt. Brakenridge, Mr. Parker, and Moses Brown.

Voted that this town do not allow of any property being brought and kept in this town as prizes, except the person bring a receipt, that possesses said property, from the commander of the department from whence such property is brought, that they have a right to the same.

Voted that this town, as a town, do not allow of any sleighs, horses or persons being stopped on the public roads by any persons."

On the whole, the people here appear to have been more patriotic than many others.

After the disturbances growing out of the Shays war were passed, the oath of allegiance to the government was required to be taken by town officers, and for several years it was copied into the records and signed, by those of whom it was required. It will be a curiosity to some.

"I, A. B., do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is and of right ought to be a free, sovereign and independent state; and I do swear, that I will bear true faith and allegi-

ance to the said Commonwealth, and that I will defend the same against traitorous conspiracies, and all hostile attempts whatsoever, and that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance subjection and obedience to the king or government of Great Britain, (as the case may be) and every other foreign prince whatsoever, and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate, hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence, authority, dispensing, or other power, in any matter, civil ecclesiastical or spiritual within this commonwealth, except the authority and power which is or may be vested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States, and do further testify and declare, that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation of this oath, declaration or affirmation, and that I do make this acknowledgment, profession, testimony, declaration, denial, renunciation and abjuration heartily and truly, according to the common meaning and acceptance of the foregoing words, without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation, whatsoever. So help me God."

In May 1787, Mr. Daniel Gould was chosen to represent the town in the Great and General Court. "Chose a committee of five to instruct the representative, chose Capt. Brakenridge, William Paige, Deacon Smith, William Snell, and Lieut. Brown for said committee."

March 31, 1788. "Voted to have a Justice of Peace in town, made choice of Mr. Isaac Pepper for said Justice. Voted that the selectmen make a return to the Governor and Council as soon as may be." No commission was given to him, nor does any justice appear to have been appointed until William Bowdoin was commissioned in 1801.

At the election Apr. 1788, the votes for Governor were for Elbridge Gerry 37, John Hancock 15.

About this time it seems to have been the custom to warn all new comers to the town to depart, to prevent their obtaining a legal settlement and becoming chargeable to the town. In March 1765, the town voted to allow William Bell for warning out several and carrying out some, twelve shillings, and to Abraham Cummings for warning out Job Smith one shilling. In 1790, there is upon record a warrant duly served by the Constable, in which he is directed to warn fifty-one persons, giving their names, "who have come into this town for the purpose of abiding therein not having the town's consent, to depart the limits thereof with their



children and all under them, within fifteen days." Among the names are some, who afterwards became substantial citizens, and whose children and grandchildren are now living here in as comfortable circumstances as any of us.

Apr. 7, 1794. "Voted to choose a committee of seven to make a list of those persons who are subject to be warned out of town agreeable to the laws of this commonwealth and to report the same at the next town meeting." This is the last record referring to that custom, which was changed about that time by the course of legislation.

The records of the town show that the people never have been rich. The support of paupers for many years was a large part of the business in town meetings. The same custom existed here as in other places of putting up the poor at auction in open town meeting to be supported by the lowest bidder. Like some other things we find to disapprove in the customs of our fathers, this has gone out of use. The town has now a farm, where a comfortable home is provided for the poor.

Some extracts from the records will show the mode of doing business in those days. At every meeting from the organization of the Precinct, it was a standing vote that "swine should run at large with yokes and rings."

May 1782. "Voted that Capt. Brakenridge as a committee agree with Rev. Mr. Tuttle to supply the pulpit for one year, on condition that if the town can get a young man upon probation, Mr. Tuttle to give way."

Apr. 19, 1757. "Voted to hire preaching for this summer. Voted to raise upon the polls and estates, the sum of £13 6s. 8d. for preaching and boarding of ministers and going after ministers. Voted Joseph Foster to go after ministers. Voted John Downing to provide a Law Book."

March 1784. "Voted to employ Mr. Tuttle one year or until a young man can be employed in the town."

March 1785. The town voted "to adopt Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns to be sung in this congregation.\* Voted that they begin next Sabbath."

Previous to this, Tate and Brady or Sternhold and Hopkins had been used, and the change was made while Rev. Jeremiah Hallock was preaching here and probably through his influence. The chorister was chosen by the town, and the

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\* The article in the warrant was, "To see if the Congregation will concur with the Church in adopting Docter Watts' *aversion* of Psalms and Hymns, to be sung in public worship."

custom was for the whole congregation to join in singing the deacon reading one line at a time.

March 1790, the record says, "made choice of Dr. Rufus King, Solomon Bush, and Mr. George Brakenridge, Queristers, for the year ensuing. Voted that the deacon read one verse or more at a time according as the tune may require." This was advancing one degree.

When the practice first obtained for the singers to sit in the gallery by themselves, it was strenuously opposed. Some would leave the house rather than listen to such profane singing.

Solomon Howe came into this town from Worcester County. He is spoken of in Mr. Draper's History of Spencer, as "a celebrated teacher of music, and as having effected such a reform in Church music in that place, that the singers were allowed to sit together, and the front part of the gallery was appropriated to their use."\*

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\* At this place the speaker paused, the audience rose and sang in the tune St. Martin's, the following, which was read a line at a time by Deacon Joseph Cummings, the great grand son of Deacon Jacob Cummings, the first deacon of the first Church.

### PSALM LXXVIII.

#### OLD SCOTCH VERSION.

*Compare this with Dr. Watts' version of the same Psalm, "Let children hear the mighty deeds," &c. and the improvement in versification will be apparent.*

- 1 My mouth shall speak a parable,  
and sayings dark of old :  
The same which we have heard and known,  
and us our fathers told.
- 2 We also will not them conceal  
from their posterity ;  
Them to the generation  
to come declare will we :
- 3 The praises of the Lord our God  
and his almighty strength,  
The wondrous works that he hath done.  
We will show forth at length.
- 4 His testimony and his law  
in Isr'el he did place,  
And charg'd our fathers it to show  
to their succeeding race ;
- 5 That so the race which was to come  
might them well learn and know ;  
And sons unborn, who should arise,  
might to their sons them show :

6 That they might set their hope in God,  
and suffer not to fall  
His mighty works out of their mind :  
but keep his precepts all.

In 1800, the meeting house was built in the middle of the town, the frame of which has been recently modeled into a pleasant and commodious house. In April, 1801, "chose Capt. Wm. Doane to see that the deck of the cupola is corked and made tight, so as to prevent the water from penetrating through, and also to finish glazing said cupola and other panes of glass which are broken in the meeting house, and fasten the upper casements of the windows so as to prevent them from making an interruption in time of public worship."

"Nov. 2, 1801. Voted, that the front door of the meeting house be bolted as soon as the speaker hath entered."

"May, 1810. Voted, to raise fifty dollars to be appropriated to the instruction of singers, and that those who belong to Mr. Burt's society receive their proportion of said fifty dollars."

In Sept. 1807. "Voted that there may be a Bell placed upon the deck of the cupola in this town, upon some conditions."

"Voted not to choose a committee to receive subscriptions. Voted that Isaac Pepper, Rufus King, Benjamin Paige, Ebenezer Titus, Benjamin Davis, Nathaniel R. Anderson, Gould Parsons, Isaac Pepper, Jr., Samuel Conkey, William Paige, Jr., Thomas Patrick, and Waters Allen, together with such as shall hereafter become subscribers, have liberty to hang a bell upon the deck of the cupola in this town, provided the bell be purchased and hung upon said deck free from any cost or expense upon said town either by tax or otherwise."

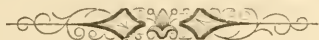
The reason of this extreme caution was, that Isaac Pepper, who headed the movement, had sometimes led the town into awkward predicaments, and in a measure lost their confidence. When the meeting house was built in 1800, he with others procured liberty of the town to erect a cupola upon it, a subscription was raised, the frame put up and fastened to the house, and the town told they were at liberty to finish it or not as they chose. This was called "*a right Pepper trick*," an expression not entirely gone out of use yet.

No bell was placed upon the church until after Mr. Reed's settlement in 1826.

Dec. 15, 1828. "Voted to give leave to have stoves erected in the meeting house in the centre of the town, if it be done without expense to the town."

After the factories were built, an attempt was made to change the name of the town. In Jan. 1825, "Voted to petition to have the name of the town changed to Waterford." It does not seem to have been prosecuted. In May, 1827, "Voted to raise a committee of five to petition the Legislature to survey a Rail Road from Boston to the Hudson River in the state of New York. Chose Alpheus Demond, Homer Bartlett, William Bowdoin, Thomas Snell, and Benjamin Paige." About this time there was some difficulty between the village and the old parish. An attempt was made by the village to be incorporated as a town, which was opposed. At the election of Representatives in 1828, the closest contest was had that ever existed here, which seems to have been hinged upon this controversy. Aaron Gould had 170 votes, Foster Marsh, 170, Joseph Cummings 1. Whereupon the town voted not to send that year. The matter was adjusted by defining the lines between the parishes, and the Village was incorporated as the East Congregational Society. The parish lines began at Samuel Gould's south-east corner, by Palmer line, and on his line to Ware River, thence up the river to Muddy Brook, up Muddy Brook to the old road to New Braintree, north of J. Hartwell's farm, thence on that road to the turn east of Nathan Coney's, thence to Darius Eaton's north line, and on that to Brookfield.

The alteration of the Constitution, making the support of religion a voluntary thing, in 1833, rendered parish lines of no value.



## SCHOOLS.

The first action of the town upon the subject of schools as appears by the records was in Jan'y. 1757, when it was "Voted to Devid ye Peraish into two parts for a scool, and flat Brook to be ye deviding Line."

"Voted Joseph Scott to take care of the West part. Voted William Brackenridge to take care of the East Part.

At this time no money was raised for schools, nor does any appear to have been raised for any other purpose than preaching until after the incorporation of the town in

1762. At the first town meeting it was voted to divide the town into four quarters, by a line running East and West by the meeting house, and by flat brook, North and South.

"Voted to Raies twelve pounds for Skoling. Voted that Eatch Quarter shall Skool out there part within the year or be forfit." The same sum was granted the next year. In 1771, only four pounds were raised. In 1772 it was raised to fourteen pounds. In 1774 fifteen pounds were granted. For several years no money was raised for schools. The town meetings were occupied mostly in providing soldiers for the Revolutionary army, and in paying them and providing for their families.

In 1782 twenty pounds were raised for schools, the districts to remain as formerly. In 1785 it was voted to divide the town into six districts, and determined where the school houses should be located. No provision for houses seems to have been made before. The same year thirty pounds were raised for schools. In 1787, thirty-six pounds were raised to build school houses. In 1791, twelve pounds were raised to build a school house in the middle of the town.

In 1794, forty-eight pounds were granted for schools. This was during the ministry of the Rev. Reuben Moss who did much to raise the character of the schools, as well as the tone of morals and public sentiment. For nearly twenty years it is thought by some, not a teacher was employed from out of town, while all the neighbouring towns sought teachers here. Hon. Joseph Cummings taught seven winters in New Braintree, receiving \$20 per month, being much more than was usually paid in those times.

In 1797, the town voted to divide the school money into eight parts, ten pounds to each district, Eighty pounds, or \$266,67. In 1805, \$320. In 1814, \$400. In 1825, \$600. In 1830, \$790. In 1835, \$800. In 1836, \$1000. In 1840, \$1250. Since which time \$1100 has been granted. The town has been for many years divided into ten districts. At the present time more than half of the scholars are in the first or village District.

The town has now the number of families required by law to support a grammar school, and the provision of a room in this house, for such a school, is an indication of better days for the education of our youth. No school has ever been maintained for any length of time, of a higher grade than our district schools, and our town the last year stood as low as 207, among the 308 towns in the State in



its provision for schools. This year \$1600 has been granted for schools.

We have not furnished a large number of students for the Colleges. A few however have sprung up here, that have pushed their way through College, gained credit to themselves and to their native town.

The first one that studied a profession was the Hon. William Bowdoin, a son of William Bowdoin, Esq. He did not go to College, but read law with the Hon. Samuel Fowler Dickinson of Amherst, and for thirty years, has practised law at South Hadley. The Honorary degree of A. M. was conferred upon him at Williams College in 1832.

He has represented this county in the State Senate for two years—1840 and 1841.

Emerson Davis, son of Dea. Enos Davis, was graduated at Williams' College, 1821. He is now settled as minister of Westfield.

John Dunbar, son of John Dunbar, was graduated at Williams' College, 1832. He is now a missionary among the Pawnee Indians.

Isaac Wethrell, son of Thomas Wethrell, graduated at Amherst College, in 1832. He is now teaching in Bangor, Me.

William Paige Davis, son of Benjamin Davis, was graduated at Union College, 1833. He is now settled as minister in Princeton, N. Y.

Joshua Pearl, son of John M. Pearl, was graduated at Yale College, 1836. He is now Principal of the Natchez Institute in Mississippi.

Porter Snow, son of Dea. Eli Snow, was in Amherst College, in the class graduated in 1837, left before graduating, and is now a minister in Baltimore, Md.

Loranus Crowell, son of Joshua Crowell, graduated at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Ct., in 1840, is a Methodist minister, now stationed in Cabotville.

Thomas Snell Norton, son of Allen Norton, was graduated at Amherst College, 1840. He is now settled as minister in Sullivan, N. H.

William Snell, son of Thomas Snell, at Amherst, 1840.

Ebenezer Snell his brother, was in the same class, but died just before he completed the course.

Loring B. Marsh, son of Foster Marsh, at Yale College, in 1840, now a Home Missionary in Iowa.

Samuel H. Allen, son of Chester Allen, was graduated at Amherst, 1841, now minister at Windsor Locks, Ct.

Aaron Walker, son of Aaron Walker, at Amherst, 1841.. He is now a teacher in Charlestown.

David Gould Sherman, son of Thomas Sherman, graduated at Yale College, 1841. Teacher in Natchez Institute, Miss.

Daniel Lyman Shearer, son of John Shearer, graduated at Yale College, 1842, now in business in Boston.

John Hartwell, son of Joseph Hartwell, at Amherst, 1843, now a physician in Boston.

Samuel Dexter Marsh, son of Foster Marsh, at Yale College, 1844,—expects soon to join the South African Mission.

Charles Demond, son of Alpheus Demond, Esq., at Williams College, 1844. He is now reading law.

These are not all natives of the town, but went from here to College.

At the present time I am not aware that we have a single student in any of the colleges.



## R O A D S .

No roads appear to have been laid out previous to the incorporation of the town. The inhabitants made use of such as nature had provided, with very small improvements. It appears that the road from Brookfield to Hadley passed through this town. It passed over the summit of Coy's hill, (a high ridge between this town and Brookfield and Warren,) down by the Coneys, and crossed the river at the old bridge place, nearly a mile above the village, passing down the west side of the pond near the village, crossing Muddy Brook at the present bridge between the parishes, then by the old Downing place, on Dr. Goodrich's land, and nearly by the present road to the Swift River bridge, near Samuel Lemmon's. This was probably used in 1660, when the first settlements were made at Brookfield.

The first bridge across the river in the village was nearly opposite the large stone factory. Timbers were laid across the rocks near the new grist mill for foot passengers, but no permanent bridge was erected there until after the factories were built. At that time, the only road to Brookfield was

over the Coney hill. It cost twenty dollars per ton for transportation of goods from Boston, and it was a hard week's work, for a team to go and return.

The road from Swift River to New Braintree was the important road, passing through the centre of the town and over the hill, by the old Durant place, crossing Muddy Brook, at the bridge now used between the parishes, and passing north of Capt. Hartwell's farm. A considerable portion of it has been discontinued.

When stages first passed through Ware from Brookfield to Northampton, they passed along the southern border of the town, crossing the river near Gideon Lamberton's. It was upon this road Dr. Dwight passed through a corner of the town in 1810, when he wrote the following notice : "*Ware* borders on Belchertown south-eastward. Its soil is generally of a very inferior quality. A traveller formerly passing through this town observed, that he thought the land was like self-righteousness; for the more he had of it, the poorer he would be."

The first Post-Office was established in 1815, at the house now occupied by Samuel M. Lemmon. Timothy Babcock was appointed Post-master. In 1824, the office was removed to the Village, and Joseph Cummings appointed. He was succeeded by Joel Rice in 1832. In 1840, Lewis Babcock was appointed. He was succeeded by Ansel Phelps, Jr. in 1843. The present incumbent, Addison Sandford was appointed in 1845.

The gross receipts of the office for the first quarter after it was established in the village in 1824, were \$44,41. The receipts for the quarter ending March 31, 1847, were \$362,07.

#### THE POPULATION OF THE TOWN AT DIFFERENT DATES.

In 1790 . .	773	1830 . .	2045
" 1800 . .	997	1837 . .	2403
" 1810 . .	996	1840 . .	1890
" 1820 . .	1154		

The last census was taken at a period of great depression in manufactures,—when most of the mills were still. The population is supposed now to be 3000.

## MANUFACTURES.

The excellent water power in this town caused it to be settled earlier perhaps, than the quality of the soil would have done. The Ware River originates in the western part of Worcester County, draining most of the country west of the Wachusett, and is supplied partly from ponds, which, with the great extent of open country drained by it, gives it a character of stability not gained by mountain streams.\* It enters Ware at the north-east corner, and goes out near the South-west, keeping near the Eastern and Southern boundary. It receives three considerable tributaries here, which traverse the town from Hardwick and Enfield on the north. Flat Brook, very near the middle of the town, Muddy Brook, on the East, and Beaver Brook on the West, divide the town into four nearly equal parts.

The falls at the village afford a fine power, the river falling more than seventy feet in less than that number of rods. On these falls mills were erected by Capt. Jabez Olmstead probably as early as 1730, or soon after. His heirs sold the property to Isaac Magoon; from him it passed to his son Alexander in 1765. At this time a grist mill and saw mill stood here which were extensively known as Magoon's mills.

In April 1813, the mills with about 400 acres of the Olmstead tract, covering the whole territory of the village and West to Muddy Brook, was sold by James Magoon, a grandson of Alexander, to Alpheus Demond, Esq., and Col. Thomas Denny for \$4,500. Mr. Demond came here the same year, rebuilt the dam now standing on the middle falls, repaired the saw mill and grist mill, and started two carding machines. The house now occupied by John Gilmore and the store of J. Hartwell were built the same year.

In 1814, he built the old tavern house, the old yellow

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\* The Indian name of the River, "Nenameseck," probably means a Fishing Basket, or a place where fish were taken in Baskets, being compounded of "Namohs," a fish, and "Manseck," a basket. The Falls were a great resort for fishing, by the Indians,—who used baskets or traps in taking salmon, which formerly abounded here, and have been taken by some of the present generation. Indian names are usually significant. The "Connecticut," is the Long River,—the "Housatonic," the river over, or beyond the Mountain."

barn which then stood near where the Post Office now is, and the old cotton mill, still standing. He also commenced building machinery. Col. Denny died at Leicester, in Dec. 1814. The same month the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent. These two events threw a dark cloud over the prospects for manufacturing here, as the latter did through the country. At that time no factories existed in this part of the state, except a small one at Worcester and one at Monson. The power loom was not then known, and the design was to make yarn to be put out to be wove in the hand looms.

The factory stood still till April 1821, when the property was sold to Holbrook and Dexter, of Boston, including mill, machinery, and land, for about \$15,000, at a loss to the former owners of about \$12,000. These gentlemen soon formed a company of Boston capitalists, including the Dexters and Amorys, the Greens and Tappans, and went on to complete the mill. In 1823, the brick store and the woolen mill, about half its present size, were built. In 1824 the large mill was built to take the water from the upper fall. This was 271 feet long, and but one story high above the basement, with an attic. To prepare the foundation, canal, wheel-pits and raceways, was an expensive undertaking, much of it being rock excavation. The plans were on a large scale, but proved ill-judged. The capital of the Ware Co. was \$600,000, incorporated in 1823. It never made a dividend.

In 1829, the property was transferred to the Hampshire Mfg. Co. at a nominal value of \$300,000. To this \$100,000 was afterwards added. In the general wreck in 1837, the Hampshire Co. failed; an actual dividend never having been made to the stockholders either from the earnings or the capital.

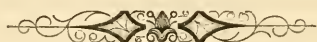
In Aug. 1839, the cotton mills passed into the hands of the Otis Co. In June 1845, the long mill, built in 1824, was destroyed by fire. The Otis Co. had already commenced the erection of a stone mill 200 feet long, five stories high, and immediately rebuilt one upon the site of the one burned, of the same dimensions of the stone mill. These are now nearly in full operation, which with the old cotton mill and the small one near it, have 600 looms, with nearly 20,000 spindles, and will consume about 1,600,000 lbs. of cotton annually, and give employment to about 650 hands. The Otis Co. has shared fully in the success that has attended manufacturers for the few past years. Its cap-



ital is \$350,000. The mills erected during the last two years, one of brick, the other of dark granite, are not exceeded in beauty or convenience of arrangements.

In 1841, Messrs. Gilbert & Stevens came from Andover and purchased of the assignees of the Hampshire Co., the woolen mill and other property on the South side of the river. This mill had been enlarged to its present size by the Hampshire Co., and furnished by them with seven sets of new machinery in 1836. The mill was still most of the time after 1837, till Oct. 1841, when it was started by the present proprietors. In the summer of 1846, they erected a new stone mill, five stories high 80 feet by 50, with four sets of machinery on a fall below what had before been occupied. Their mills will consume about 300,000 pounds of Wool annually, and employ about 200 hands. The enterprise and skill of these gentlemen well deserve the success which has attended them.

The Hampshire Manufacturers' Bank was incorporated in 1825, with a capital of \$100,000. In 1836 its capital was increased to \$150,000.



## TEMPERANCE.

The great change which the habits of the people have undergone within a few years on this subject, seems to justify a particular notice, confining myself pretty closely to the records.

May 9, 1768. "Voted to raise two pounds to provide *Rumb* for the raising the Bridge over Ware river."

March 1784, "Voted to pay James Lemmon for six journeys to Belchertown and two quarts of Rum, thirteen shillings and six pence."

In 1787, (Shays' War times), a grievous difficulty arose with the Rev. Mr. Judd, the minister. The vote for dismissing him was 63 to 13. The matter was referred to an ecclesiastical council, and the town voted to join with the church in paying the cost. "Voted Aug. 27th to allow William Paige for sundry articles, viz., ninepence a meal for 169 meals; two pence a lodging for 85 lodgings; for keeping 61 horses twenty-four hours, four pence per horse."

“Voted to allow three shillings and sixpence per gallon for four gallons of rum.”

Again, Oct. 22, “Voted to allow William Paige for keeping the Ecclesiastical Council, which is as follows, viz., seven pence per meal 212 meals, two pence a lodging 68 lodgings, four pence for keeping a horse 24 hours 76 horses, four gallons and a half of new rum, three shillings per gallon, two gallons of old rum, five shillings per gallon.” This seems to have been the second council when they drank better rum and more of it.

“Nov. 2, 1801. Voted that the selectmen give a general invitation to all the inhabitants of the town of Ware, to work on the road one or more days, leading from Swift River to the line of New Braintree *free gratis*, said selectmen to find them what spirits they shall think necessary.”

These records will seem more strange to future generations, we hope, than they do to us. We are yet in a transition state, and can look back to strange times.

At the time the factory operations commenced here, in 1823, 1824, and 1825, the use of intoxicating drinks had reached a point probably never known before or since. Then all used them with scarce an exception. The labourers in the shops, on the buildings, at the dam and canal had every man his bottle. It was nothing uncommon to draw a hogshhead of rum, and sometimes two, daily, at the factory Store; not all for our inhabitants, for large quantities went north in exchange for lumber and other materials brought in.

In 1826, the temperance reform began, and was early engaged in by the ministers, agents and principal men of the place. In 1833, the election of representatives turned upon this question, and though the candidates of the temperance men were defeated, they proposed and carried the following resolutions:

“Nov. 11th, 1833. Moved that we instruct our Representatives to use their influence to obtain a revision of the License Laws in such a manner as to promote the great moral reform now going on through the agency of temperance Societies.

1. Resolved that our Representatives use their influence for such a modification of the License Laws, as shall make it penal for any one to sell ardent spirits to the town inhabitants on the sabbath.

2. That they use their influence for the alteration of said License Laws in such a manner as to keep pace with public

opinion in relation to the retailing of ardent spirits, and that when a majority of the Inhabitants of any town in this commonwealth shall vote in legal town meeting that no retailer in said town is necessary, other than for medical purposes, such vote to be a bar to such license within said town."

"Mar. 2, 1835, Resolved:—

1. As the sense of this meeting, that no retailer of ardent spirits is necessary in this town the present year, and ought not to be licensed; carried 157 to 40.

2. Resolved, that the sense of this meeting be obtained whether Inn-holders to sell ardent spirits in this town are necessary, if so, how many.

Voted that it is inexpedient to have any Inn-holders to sell ardent spirits in this town the present year."

"March, 1836. Voted that the selectmen be instructed not to approbate any person to retail any spirits or intoxicating liquors the present year." Since which time with the exception of one single year, no one has received an approbation from the selectmen to sell intoxicating drinks in this town.



## THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Some brief notices of the early settlers, will close what I propose to offer, and these must necessarily be imperfect. I have not the advantage of being a native of the town, nor of a long residence, but have availed myself of such means as were within my reach. The evidence of living witnesses, the records of the town and church, ancient deeds and papers, and the tomb-stones of the dead, have furnished the materials from which I have gleaned.

Capt. Jabez Olmstead is supposed to have come from Brookfield, and to have made the first permanent settlement here in 1729. Of his former history, I can learn but little. He must have been a man of property, as he paid £400 for the tract he purchased here, as appears by the deed. He is described as "of Brookfield, in the county of Hampshire." When that town was incorporated, in 1718, it was "agreed the said town to lye to the county of Hampshire," where it continued to belong, till Worcester county was established, in 1731. Tradition represents Capt. Olmstead

to have been a man of great shrewdness and energy, and that Indian blood ran in his veins. He was a mighty hunter, and is said to have been an officer in the expedition against Louisbourg, upon the island of Cape Breton, in 1745. The following anecdote is related of him. On the return of the army to Boston from Louisbourg, he was invited with the officers to dine with Gov. Shirley. The pudding he found to be too hot; and taking it from his mouth, and laying it upon the side of his plate, he said he would keep it to light his pipe with.

He had two sons, Israel and Jeremiah. To the oldest, 100 acres of the Elbow tract was granted, adjoining his farm. They both married and had children, of whom I have no further knowledge. He had one daughter, Hannah, who married Judah Marsh. He does not appear to have taken a very active part in town affairs.

John Post, the first Precinct clerk, was a relative of Olmstead, and lived upon the farm now owned by Joseph Hartwell, which was part of Olmstead's purchase. His wife's death is recorded here March 20, 1745.

Isaac Magoon came from Ireland with the colony that settled in Palmer in 1727. The farm allotted to him by the committee of the Legislature, was at the South East corner of the Read Manor. He built where Haskell Cummings now lives. Isaac Jr. lived where Josephus Lamber-ton now lives. They owned a large tract, about 700 acres in the strip of land between the south line of the manor and the south line of the town. Isaac Magoon Jr. afterwards bought of Capt. Olmstead's heirs, the mills and the tract of land in the village, about 600 acres. He had two sons, Alexander, who lived at the mills, and Isaac, who lived where Haskell Cummings now lives. Isaac married Lucretia, daughter of John Downing, and had thirteen children. One son, Dr. Isaac Magoon, is now living in Michigan. One daughter, Mrs. Eliphalet Marsh is now living here. Allen Grover's first wife was another daughter. Alexander had two sons, Isaac, who died on the Red River, Sept. 1808, and Alexander, who died in Salem, N. York. Isaac's son James married Mehitabel Ellis, a daughter of Ebenezer Gould, in 1810, and is now living in Illinois. Isaac lives in Bloomington, Iowa. Mrs. Marsh and her children, Chester and Diadama, are the only descendants left in town, of a family as numerous as any other here probably, one hundred years ago, and possessing about 1,400 acres of the best land in the town.



Jacob Cummings came from Killingly, Ct. soon after the first settlements were made, and was the most prominent man in the Precinct and town for many years. He was one of the first deacons in the church, acted as moderator of the first meeting of the Parish, was one of the Precinct Committee, and when the town was incorporated in 1762, one of the first board of selectmen, and town treasurer. He bought, probably of Stewart Southgate, the farm now owned by Joel Rice, Esq., and the one owned by his great-grand-son, the Hon. Joseph Cummings. He had five sons, Jacob, Benjamin, Abraham, Isaac and Solomon. Jacob had no sons that lived to have a family. Abraham's daughter Hannah married Thomas McClintock, the father of Benjamin and Levans Mc Clintock. Jerusha, another daughter, married Thomas Bacon, in 1780.

Benjamin had three sons, Daniel, Simeon and Joseph. Daniel died young. Simeon had two sons, Simeon and Nichols, the latter went into the State of N. York. Simeon had four sons and one daughter, now living here, Lewis G., William, Simeon and Nichols, and the wife of Daniel Dunbar, 2nd.

Joseph married Temperance Nye in 1775, had seven sons and four daughters. One son died young. Benjamin now lives in North Brookfield. Simeon died in this town. Hon. Joseph and Haskell now live here, Braddish in Illinois, and Estes in New Haven. Jacob Cummings died Feb. 27, 1776, aged 83. His posterity of the sixth generation are present with us to-day, inheriting the possessions with the blessing of a pious ancestor. Benjamin his son, died Dec. 14, 1805, aged 87. Joseph, son of Benjamin, died June 30, 1826, aged 73; his widow is still living, nearly 90 years of age.

John Davis came as is supposed, from Oxford, before 1750, and settled where Samuel M. Lemmon now lives. He was chosen deacon when the church was formed in 1751, and was one of the first board of Selectmen. He had four sons; Nathan, David, Josiah and Abijah. Nathan married a daughter of Jonathan Rogers, who kept a tavern where Robert Tucker now lives. He had sons, Nathan, Elihu, Enos the deacon, Pliny, Rodney who lives in Belchertown, and Leonard, who lives in Palmer.

Enos married Submit Bush, daughter of Solomon Bush, in 1797, and had sons, Rev. Emerson Davis of Westfield, and Solomon B., now living here.



William Brakenridge, who was the prominent man here for more than thirty years, one of the first board of Selectmen, and the first representative to the Provincial Congress, and town clerk for eighteen years, came to this country from Ireland, in 1727, when four years of age, with his father James, a native of Scotland, who was one of the first settlers of the Elbow tract. There is, in the Brakenridge family an ancient manuscript music-book upon the fly-leaf of which is written, "*Mr. Jacobus Breakenridge, His Music Book, made and taught per me, Robt. Cairnes, at Glenreavoll, Sept. 1715.*" Besides the scale and rudiments of music, it contains the date of his marriage, 1720, and the births of his children, giving the day, the hour, and the time in the moon, with other memoranda. On one page is written, "*We departed from Ireland, July 16, 1727, and my child died on the 19th of Aug.*" Another son was born in Nov. following, to whom the same name was given. His sons were James, who settled in Ware, afterwards removed to Bennington Vt., and went as minister to England, William, born Sept. 19, 1723, who settled in Ware in 1746, Francis and George who remained in Palmer.

William married Agnes Sinclair, who came with her parents in the same vessel with him from Ireland, and had four sons, William, James, George and Francis. He took up about 1,000 acres of land on the north part of the Elbow grant, built a house in the centre, where the widow Francis Brakenridge now lives, and planted his four sons around him. His education was imperfect, but his native good sense, and sound judgment gave him a leading influence in the town.

William married Thankful, a daughter of Judah Marsh; had two sons, William Sinclair, who is dead, and Judah Marsh, now living, where his father did.

James married a daughter of William Coney, and had four sons; James, who is dead, Allender, now living, Reuben Moss, who is dead, and William, living where his father did.

George married Persis Joslyn of New Braintree, and had six sons. Benjamin and Franklin now live in this town.

Francis married Lydia Pepper, and had one son, Francis, who is dead.

William Brakenridge died Feb. 16, 1807, aged 84. His grandsons inherit the lands and the stable virtues of their ancestor.

Judah Marsh came from Hatfield or Hadley, in 1730, and settled near the mills built by him, and now known as Marsh's Mills. Thomas, Ephraim, Samuel and Joseph, who were here in 1742, were probably his brothers. He married a daughter of Capt. Jabez Olmstead, and had sons, Elijah, Joel, Thomas, Jonathan, Judah and a second Joel.

Thomas had four sons, none of whom are here. Jonathan had four sons. Jacob and Foster are now living here. Judah had five sons. Aaron and James Sullivan are now living here. Joel's son Joel S. is now living in Hardwick. Judah Marsh died May 7, 1801, aged 89. His posterity dwell upon the land upon which he settled in 1730.

Samuel Sherman, one of the first board of selectmen, came from Rochester, and settled at first upon the farm now owned by William E. Bassett; he afterwards lived south of Benjamin Bond's. He married for a second wife, Jerusha Davis, by whom he inherited the farm now owned by Calvin Morse. He had by his first wife two sons, Thomas and Prince; and by his second, Reuben, Samuel and Ebenezer. Reuben is dead, has two sons, Thomas and Earl, living here.

Ebenezer died in Ohio; has two daughters living here, the wives of Downing Gould and Edward Pope.

Samuel Sherman died Feb. 5, 1811, aged 88.

Deacon Thomas Jenkins lived where Seth Pierce now lives. He was a deacon indeed it seems; for the mild and serious rebuke he gave to the son of a neighbor who incautiously said "*I vow*", in his presence, was never forgotten. He was one of the delegates to the Provincial Congress with Capt. Brakenridge. He has no descendants here.

Deacon Maverick Smith lived where Dauphin Harwood now lives. He has no descendants here.

Joseph Foster lived between the village and Joseph Cummings'. He had a family of eight children, and was a man of character and influence, was one of the first delegates to the Provincial Congress, in 1775. I cannot learn whence he came, or whither he went, as no descendants of his live here.

Samuel Dunsmore was a native of Ireland, and settled where Rufus Eaton now lives. His daughter Miriam married James Lamberton, and was the mother of Samuel D. Lamberton of Brookfield, and of Rufus Thrasher's wife.

James Lemmon came from Ireland, when four years of age, and settled on the farm now owned by his grandson Samuel

Lemmon, in the South-West part of the town. His mother was a sister of James Brakenridge, who settled in Palmer. His son James lived where Miriam Lemmon does. He was the only Irishman, it seems, that settled upon the manor. They usually sought the low meadow lands.

John Downing came from Springfield, bought of Timothy Brown in 1752, and kept a tavern on the old road, west of Muddy brook, on land now owned by Dr. Goodrich. He had one son who was drowned June 10, 1771, while attempting to rescue Reuben Davis, who was also drowned. One daughter married Isaac Magoon, another David Gould.

Deacon Daniel Gould came from Sharon in 1773, and settled where his son Aaron now lives. He was the first representative elected under the Constitution, and had much to do with town business. He had sons, Daniel, Lewis, Aaron and Seth; the last two are living here. He died July 10, 1834.

David and Ebenezer his brothers, came soon after. David married Lovisa, daughter of John Downing, in 1780, and lived near where Benjamin Eaton now lives. He has sons, Samuel, John and Downing, living here, and daughters, the wives of Thomas Sherman, Joel Rice and William S. Brakenridge. He died August 22, 1817, aged 67.

Ebenezer Gould, married Mille, daughter of William Coney, in 1782, and had sons, Leonard, who is dead, and Ebenezer who lives where his father did.

Deacon William Paige came from Hardwick in 1777, and lived where Samuel Holbrook now lives, formerly occupied by Rev. Ezra Thayer. He had a son William, who died without issue, and eight daughters. One married Dr. Rufus King; one Benjamin Cummings; one Simeon Cummings; and one Azel Washburn. He died June 23d, 1826.

Phille Morse came from Sharon soon after the town was incorporated. He married a daughter of William Coney, and lived upon the farm now owned by his son Calvin. Another son, Braddish, died young. A daughter married Prince Andrews; one, Calvin Ward, now in Illinois; and the youngest, David Lewis, and is not living.

William Coney came from Sharon during the Revolution, and built his habitation among the rocks, where his sons William and Daniel now live. It was then in Brookfield; being colliers, they seem to have sought the wood rather than the land. His son, Capt. Oliver Coney, came earlier, and

owned the farm where the widow of George Brakenridge now lives. He died Dec. 13, 1830, aged 81.

John Tisdale came from Taunton in 1775, and settled at first in Greenwich, South Parish, now Enfield. He came into Ware, April 19, 1779, at which time, it is said, the apple trees were in full bloom, an indication of an earlier season than this. His son John Jr., was the father of Timothy, Thomas, Israel and James W., now living here. His oldest son was named John Read, after the lord of the manor.

Jeremiah Anderson was a native of Ireland, and came here soon after the Precinct was established, lived where Ebenezer Barlow now lives, in the N. E. corner of the town, and had a large family of eleven children. His son William was born Aug. 18, 1749, and lived near the centre of the town.

William's son Amasa was born November 6, 1776, and married Thankful Brakenridge in 1802. Nathaniel was born June 15, 1783, and married Salome Snell, in 1813, both of whom have children living here. Samuel D. was another son, who inherited Samuel Dunsmore's farm for his name.

Thomas Andrews was here quite early. John, Aaron and Prince were his sons, and have descendants here. Aaron married Betsey, daughter of Simeon Cummings. Prince married Clarissa Morse.

James Lamberton was one of the original settlers in Palmer. He came from Ireland, and lived where Charles Shaw now does. He had sons, John, who was a bachelor, like his uncle John before him, James, Seth and David. James married a daughter of Samuel Dunsmore for his first wife, and lived on the farm now occupied by Baxter Gilbert. He afterwards lived where Alfred and Gideon do, who are his sons by a second wife.

Seth married Elizabeth Eddy of Brookfield, and lived where his son Josephus does.

Dr. Edward Demond came here from Reading, and was, probably, the first physician here. The record of the births of his children begins in 1735, but some of them were probably born before he came to this town. He lived where John Wetherell does, and had sons, Edward Thomas, Abraham and Stephen, and five daughters. A daughter married Elijah, son of Judah Marsh, in 1759. Edward Demond is son of Thomas, and is now living here.



Dr. Elias Bolton came from Mendon about 1780. After him was Dr. Walker who came from Windham, Scotland Society Ct. He lived near the old Durant place, and remained here about six years.

Dr. Rufus King came from Brookfield in 1789, and is still living, 80 years of age.

William Bowdoin Esq. came here in infancy, about 1762. He is supposed to have been a natural son of a brother of Gov. Bowdoin, whose name he bore. He was raised in the family of Solomon Bush, near Marsh's mills, received his education in the common schools, and having a taste for reading, and a tact for business, he acquired a character and influence no other man ever gained in this town. He was chosen town clerk in 1789, and held the office for twenty-two years in succession. He was again elected in 1830, and held the office until his death, Sept. 23, 1831. He represented the town eleven years in the Legislature, being the only one chosen from 1795 to 1812, and was a delegate to the Convention for revising the Constitution, in 1820. In 1801, he was elected a Justice of the Peace, and did most of the business of that nature, in this town, for nearly thirty years. He wrote a very plain, legible hand, and the perfect state of the town records is owing, very much to his care. He transcribed the records of the births, deaths and marriages, by vote of the town, in 1789, which are very complete of some of the earlier families. He was twice married, and had fourteen children. His son, Hon. William Bowdoin of South Hadley, has been a member of the Senate from this County; James has been a Representative from New Braintree; John from this town; and Walter H. from Springfield.

To recur for a moment to the occasion that has brought us together. While we rejoice in the erection of this building as an ornament and convenience, let us do it with a proper consideration to the rights and privileges of those whose convenience will not be promoted by the change in the place of holding our town meetings. Probably two-thirds of the inhabitants in town, reside within a mile of this hall. We are bringing matters back to their former state, as we have learned the first meetings were held in the "*Great House*" in this part of the town.

This town has always been marked by a more than ordinary degree of harmony and stability in its public affairs.



In order to maintain this character, we must be willing to concede to all their rights. Because a prosperous business has given to this village the power and influence, to some extent, I trust we shall never seem disposed to take the Lion's share. To dwell in peace, there must be mutual concession. Sectional jealousies must be suppressed. The schools, the roads and the poor require our care, as a town. Let us be liberal in providing for them.

The manufacturing establishments may, in some cases, increase the expenses of the town, but they pay too, a large proportion of the taxes. They furnish a home market for our surplus produce. They pay for labor, about \$175,000 annually, which finds its way to the merchants, the mechanics and the farmers. We have known how things looked when the wheels did not move. The present success of manufacturers here should not excite our jealousy. We have learned that \$700,000 have been planted here by other hands, which, with all the care and toil of nearly fifteen years, have yielded no fruit but disappointment. It was not the fault of the place, nor altogether in the management. The experiment began early here. We have passed through deep waters, and through fire, and are looking better now than ever.

I believe it to be the duty, as it is the right of all, to attend town meetings. We all have an interest in the business of the town. But if any will stay away, and dislike what is done by those who go, they should hold their peace.

May we discharge our duties, mindful that they may be reviewed by future generations, as we have looked back to-day, and remembering our accountability to Him "who keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him, and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."

## TOWN CLERKS OF WARE.

John Post,	chosen	1742.	William Paige,	chosen	1787.
Jacob Cummings,	"	1744.	William Bowdoin,	"	1789.
John Davis,	"	1748.	Leonard Gould,	"	1811.
Timothy Brown,	"	1750.	Joel Rice,	"	1825.
Jacob Cummings,	"	1751.	Leonard Gould,	"	1826.
William Brakenridge,	"	1757.	Joel Rice,	"	1828.
Maverick Smith,	"	1760.	William Snow,	"	1829.
William Brakenridge,	"	1762.	William Bowdoin,	"	1830.
Abraham Cummings,	"	1777.	Leonard Gould,	"	1831.
David Brown,	"	1780.	George W. Porter,	"	1832.
Thomas Tuff's,	"	1782.	Jason Gorham,	"	1837.
David Brown,	"	1786.	Lewis Demond,	"	1839.

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM WARE.

In the years not named, the town was not represented.

WILLIAM BRAKENRIDGE, }  
 JOSEPH FOSTER, and } to Provincial Congress 1775.  
 THOMAS JENKINS, }

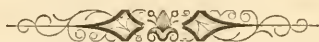
## Under the Constitution.

Daniel Gould,	1787.	Aaron Gould, }	
Isaac Pepper,	1788.	Joel Rice, }	1831.
Isaac Pepper,	1795.	Allender Brakenridge, }	
William Bowdoin,	1798.	Homer Bartlett, }	1832.
William Bowdoin,	1801.	Alpheus Demond, }	
William Bowdoin,	1802.	Enos Davis, }	1833.
William Bowdoin,	1803.	Calvin Morse, }	
William Bowdoin,	1804.	Benjamin Wilder, }	1834.
William Bowdoin,	1806.	Thomas Wilder, }	
William Bowdoin,	1808.	John Osborne Jr, }	1835.
William Bowdoin,	1809.	Thomas Wilder, }	
William Bowdoin,	1810.	Reuben Lazell, }	1836.
William Bowdoin,	1811.	Edmund Freeman, }	
William Bowdoin,	1812.	Reuben Lazell, }	1837.
Enos Davis,	1813.	Thomas Snell, }	
Enos Davis,	1814.	Royal Bosworth, }	1838.
William Paige Jr.,	1815.	Thomas Snell, }	
Joseph Cummings,	1816.	Jason Gorham, }	1839.
Joseph Cummings,	1817.	John Bowdoin, }	
Joseph Cummings,	1822.	Nelson Palmer, }	1840.
Aaron Gould,	1824.	Joel Rice,	1841.
Aaron Gould,	1825.	Ebenezer Gould,	1842.
William Paige Jr., }		Horace Goodrich,	1843.
Alpheus Demond, }	1826.	Jonathan Harwood,	1844.
Aaron Gould,	1827.	Ansel Phelps Jr.,	1845.
Aaron Gould, }		Samuel M. Lemmon,	1846.
Samuel Phelps, }	1829.	Avery Clark,	1847.
Joel Rice,	1830.		

William Bowdoin Esq., was delegate to the Convention for revising the State Constitution, in 1820.

Hon. Joseph Cummings was a member of the State Senate from Hampshire County, in the years 1831 and 1832.

He has also been County Commissioner for twelve years, and is now re-elected for another term.



## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

	1801.	William Bowdoin,	died Sept. 23, 1831.
Feb. 23,	1811.	Dr. Rufus King.	
June 14,	1817.	Joseph Cummings.	
Jan. 22,	1823.	Thomas A. Dexter,	removed to Boston in 1826.
Feb. 22,	1825.	Homer Bartlett,	" Lowell in 1839.
Feb. 5,	1828.	Alpheus Demond.	
" 7,	"	Aaron Gould.	
" 1,	1832.	Henry Starkweather,	" New York in 1834.
May 21,	"	Reuben A. Chapman,	" Springfield in 1834.
Feb. 18,	1833.	Barlow Freeman, r. Jacksonville. Ill.	died Sep. 1838.
" "	"	Leonard Gould,	died Nov. 4, 1839.
Aug. 26,	1834.	William Hyde.	
Jan. 29,	1835.	Francis B. Stebbins, r. Oswego N. Y.	died May 1845.
Mar. 28,	"	Thomas Wilder,	removed to Boston in 1836.
Oct. 2,	"	Dr. Anson Moody,	" North Haven, Ct., in 1836.
May 12,	1841.	Ansel Phelps Jr.,	" Springfield in 1846.
Aug. 29,	1843.	Lewis Babcock.	
Oct. 3,	"	Samuel Phelps,	died Nov. 1, 1843.
" "	"	Josiah French,	rem. to Halifax Vt., 1845.
Dec. 31,	1844.	Joel Rice.	
July 1,	1845.	John Bowdoin.	
Apr. 15,	1846.	Samuel T. Spaulding.	
May 15,	"	Arthur L. Devens.	

The Hall erected by the town, at the opening of which the foregoing address was delivered, is situated nearly opposite the Hotel, at the corner of Main street and the road leading to Northampton and Springfield. The building is sixty feet long by forty-eight wide, two stories high. The first floor contains a room for a Grammar School, with a recitation room attached, and an office for the Selectmen and Assessors. The second story is in one room, for the transaction of town business. The basement is occupied as a Market. The cost of the building and land, with the fixtures and furniture for the Hall and School-room, is about \$4,500. The plan was designed by H. N. Sykes, Esq. of Springfield, and the building erected by Daniel Colton, of Longmeadow.

The Building Committee were

CHARLES A. STEVENS,  
 ALLENDER BRAKENRIDGE,  
 AVERY CLARK,

SETH PIERCE.  
 JOEL RICE.













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